EAST BAY EXPRESS

MARCH 24-30, 2010 EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

The Rise of the Stay-At-Home Dad

More and more fathers are embracing the role of primary caregiver, allowing their wives to concentrate on their careers. By Caitlin Esch

FULL DISCLOSURE

MUSIC — 49

THE ECHO CHAMBER

Decades of influences reverberate on the Morning Benders' new album, *Big Echo*

By Tessa Stuart

From the sound of the needle dropping on the opening track, "Excuses," it's clear that the Morning Benders' new album *Big Echo* is all about nuance. Talking to Chris Chu, the band's lead singer, it becomes apparent why form follows function. Chu speaks carefully — he pauses before answering a question and shies away from making bold or sweeping statements. For example, he cautioned er putting too much emphasis on any of the band's recent success: "Excuses" was picked as the best new track by Pitchfork, and in February, according to a website that aggregates such statistics, the Morning Benders was the most blogged about band on the Internet. *Story Inside*

FOOD — 52

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On the Cover Amy Wilson, Paul Schwartz, and son Maison. *Photo by Melissa Barnes.*

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NEWS & OPINION

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LETTERS

Hardly Muckraking

It was muckraking when the *North Coast Journal* reported the sexual charges against Hany Assad in 2007 while he was still practicing. But it was beating a dead horse and merely salacious when the *East Bay Express* resurrected the story months after Assad's license was pulled.

I'm writing because my name was invoked in a paragraph consisting of five false sentences.

"Ever since Proposition 215 passed in 1996 there's been a boom in clinics run by doctors that only prescribe pot." Your inapt use of the verb "prescribe" is trivial compared to your distortion of the political situation after the passage of Prop. 215. As of November 1996, there was only one pro-cannabis MD, Tod Mikuriya, flying up and down the state conducting ad hoc clinics. Slowly and cautiously over the ensuing years, a few other doctors let it be known that they recognized cannabis as safe and effective medicine. Drs. Frank Lucido, David Bearman and Stephen Banister were among the first and patients flocked to them for approvals. All three got investigated by the state medical board and Banister was put on probation. In the next wave Drs. Eidelman, Hergenrather, Fry, Denney, O'Connell, Barth came out as pro-cannabis. As of 2003, nine of the 15 doctors issuing large numbers of approvals had been investigated by the med board — a costly, frightening ordeal that sufficed to keep doctors of average courage from doing so.

"According to Fred Gardner, a leading member of the cannabis clinician community ... there's an estimated 600,000 to 700,000 people with pot recommendations from a doctor amid a field of perhaps 4 million California pot smokers." I'm not a clinician. I'm a writer and I never made either estimate. You can (not) look it up.

"Anywhere from fifty to a few hundred doctors in the state do all the prescribing." The first half of that sentence is one of the facts your reporter should have tried to nail down; the second half is provably wrong. Thousands of mainstream California doctors have authorized cannabis use by their patients. When I surveyed California doctors in 2006 for the O'Shaughnessy's 10-year report I concluded, "Approximately 160,000 patients have been authorized to use cannabis by some 30 MDs involved in the survey. In Oregon, where a 1998 voter initiative created a medical-marijuana program that tracks participants, an [illegible] number of cannabis specialists have issued 45% of the approvals. By extrapolation we put the number of Californians who have become legal cannabis users since Prop. 215 passed at around 350,000." In other words, slightly more than half the authorized patients were approved by their "regular" doctors and other specialists such as oncologists.

"No one counts them." The Patient ID Center keeps track of doctors whose approvals get processed by their Oakland and LA offices. The number exceeded 2,100 as of a few months ago.

"They set up high-volume practices where they exclusively determine if marijuana would be an effective treatment for customer maladies." Not all cannabis specialists run high volume practices. In any case, volume reflects demand. Demand has been pent up because most doctors, having learned nothing about cannabis in medical school, remain reluctant to recommend it, while others are simply too scared of running afoul of the medical board. As for "exclusively," who other than the doctor and patient should be involved in the treatment decision? The local police? The reality is, some pro-cannabis doctors are conscientious, painstaking, ethical and respectful and some are cursory, venal and sleazy. As in every field, there's a spectrum of skill. I'd put Phil Denney at the high end of his and David Downs at the low end of his.

Fred Gardner

David Downs Responds

I misattributed the "600,000 to 700,000" figure to Mr. Gardner and I should have attributed it to Dr. Denney. Apologies.

It doesn't change the fact that there are now literally "countless" doctors running high-volume practices up and down the state capable of making millions of dollars off cannabis recommendations. They did not exist before 215, so I characterize this as a boom.

Indeed, Fred Gardner is not a clinician; he is the editor of a medical cannabis journal *O'Shaughnessy's*, long-time member of the Society of Cannabis Clinicians, and a long-time activist. This led me to correctly characterize him as "a leading member" of that community.

Former SCC president Dr. P.A. Denney provided me with the estimate of 50 high volume doctors, while the *Los Angeles Times*' Steve Lopez in 2009 provided the estimate of a few hundred. There is no official count. While any doctor can recommend cannabis (I interviewed a respected doc at UC Davis who had issued one in her decades-long career), a select few are responsible for the majority of recommendations.

According to the California Medical Board, no officials count the number of recommendations, or doctors who issue them, as it is a private matter between doctors and patients. The Patient ID Center does keep track of some doctors, but no one counts them all. While there may be 2,100 doctors who at one time have issued a recommendation tracked by the Patient ID Center, a select few like Assad do much of the high volume work, essentially running script mills. In Venice Beach, clowns dance along the boardwalk with big signs encouraging people to come in off the street for a doctor's recommendation and cannabis purchase from such high-volume clinics.

Gardner does not dispute the existence of high-volume, shady practices like Assad's. And we both can agree not all doctors run high volume clinics, volume reflects demand, and mainstream doctors are loathe to recommend cannabis and know little about it due to the paucity of US research on the substance. We agree research should be fully funded.

We agree no one other than a doctor and patient should be involved in a treatment decision. We agree there are bad apples and good apples in every bunch.

I would add that the existence of script mills like Assad's taint both the reputation of the medical community as well the legalization cause. It turns medicine into quackery and makes legalizers look duplicitous. The classical cannabis community's aversion to shaming or god forbid, turning in members like Assad ultimately hurts their credibility and their cause. They should self-police or more stories like these will emerge. Ultimately I hope marijuana is legalized for personal use, so people like Assad can't make millions of dollars discrediting medicine and harming patients with the illusion of care.

To my knowledge no publication has discovered that this is the first pot doctor to have his license revoked in the state. And no local mainstream print publication has reported on how Assad took Oaklanders' money and gave them a worthless recommendation. This makes the story both original and a public service. In contrast to Mr. Gardner's assessment of my reporting skills, I thank him for his correction and understand his effort to minimize and dismiss even a modicum of negative press for his or her cause.

Biased Piece

I am disappointed that despite my efforts to correct factual errors many remain. The statement "A Los Angeles buyer who went on to purchase NorCal Healthcare" is not true! I purchased the practice from Dr. Assad and own it outright. I have hired a Los Angeles-based firm to provide management services. California law does not allow ownership of a medical practice by anyone other than a physician.

Medical cannabis cannot be "prescribed." Its use can only be recommended or approved, and it is easier, not harder to approve cannabis use by a patient with a complicated history.

In addition I believe your repeated reference to "pot" rather than the proper term cannabis belies a bias consistent with the overall sleazy nature of the piece. Lastly, please note the correct spelling of my name.

Philip A. Denney M.D., Oakland

Editor's Note

The misspelling of Dr. Philip A. Denney's first name on second reference was made by me, Robert Gammon, editor of the story. In addition, the story's author asked me to correct

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an error he made prior to publication concerning the purchase of NorCal Healthcare, but I neglected to do so.

As for the term "prescribed," we used that term interchangeably with "recommended" throughout the story. And while we fully realize that physicians can't technically "prescribe" pot in California, the term, in that context, has generally come to mean the same as "recommending" it.

And finally, neither the author nor the editor intended the term "pot" to be a pejorative. Nor is the author, his editor, or this newspaper biased against medical marijuana. As regular readers know, the opposite is more likely true.

Re: Berkeley Daily Planet: A Personal Obituary, Feature, [illegible]

Question Brenneman

I launched www.DPWatchDog.com in February 2009 as a corrective to the *Daily Planet's* hysterical anti-Israelism and its forays into overt anti-Semitism. The *Daily Planet*, despite espousing a policy of publishing all comers, had refused to publish a number of my submitted letters, presumably because they were critical of the *Daily Planet*. I had no other way to *Express* my free speech rights than to launch my own web site. That web site grew in time, and has been widely complimented for the depth of its research. Though I have never personally spoken with a *Daily Planet* advertiser, I have heard anecdotally that after reviewing the information on my web site more than a few of them dropped the paper.

The only time I met Richard Brenneman was in May of last year when he came to my office representing himself as a "local reporter" interested only in the facts surrounding my local dispute with the *Daily Planet*. Though a reporter for the *Daily Planet*, he assured he intended to "play it down the middle." Having nothing to hide, I granted the interview. On June 3, 2009 the *Daily Planet* published eight separate articles written by Brenneman and O'Malley condemning myself and others who were opposed to the *Daily Planet*.

Among other things, I learned from Brenneman that day that I am a religious fanatic and a "neocon" Republican. The fact that I had told Brenneman that I am life-long liberal Democrat, an avowed secularist who rarely attends synagogue, and that, though a Zionist, I identify with Israel's left wing parties did not prevent him from simply making up whatever he pleased. Using a snippet of a quotation Brenneman falsely claimed that I was out to destroy the *Planet* when the full quote revealed that I was making precisely the opposite point, namely, that a good local paper is a community asset and that I only sought its reform.

Becky O'Malley, not to be outdone by her reporter, called me a liar, a lunatic, and a Nazi. With this as background, and in close imitation of pro-life extremist web sites that publish the pictures and addresses of legal abortion providers, Brenneman published my address along with my picture in a thinly veiled call to the *Daily Planet's* radical minions to do me violence. One such person dropped by the next day. There was no conceivable news justification for the publication of my address. After eventually being dismissed by the *Daily Planet*, "local reporter" Richard Brenneman launched a blog, wouldn't you know it, that is dedicated in part to the demonization of Israel and American Zionists.

O'Malley's hard-left readership chimed in, denouncing me as a "racist," "fascist," "scum," and more. Reading their letters, one can detect no evidence that the authors had ever even visited the web site that they condemned. Self-described "First Amendment absolutist," Becky O'Malley, placed a spam blocker on me so that she would not have to publish my response to all this and ignored me when I used an old-fashion fax machine to get around the block.

In the meantime, as O'Malley continued to publish anti-Semitic tracts with merry abandon (but never anything that could be construed as anti-black, anti-Muslim, anti-gay, or misogynous — hate speech being reserved only for Jews), her ardent defender Richard Brenneman boldly announced that he, as a Jew, could vouch that O'Malley was not an anti-Semite. However, as DPWatchDog revealed, Brenneman was born to Mennonites, lived in an ashram where he was a practicing Hindu astrologer, left to convert to Christian Science, then wrote a book condemning Christian Science, and is now, according to his blog, a practicing atheist. His sole claim to being Jewish stems from the fact (if the man is to be believed at all) that one of his several wives was Jewish.

Since the print paper's closing, I have reached out to some of its employees with offers of help. Most of them were as much a victim of Becky O'Malley's vicious prejudices and vulgar bullying as the community at large, though, as for Brenneman, he probably justly reaped the rewards of what he helped to sow.

John Gertz, Berkeley

Cowardly Attacks

Ironic that you would choose Richard Brenneman to write the post mortem for the *Berkeley Daily Planet*. He is in no position to be objective, having served as the O'Malley's journalistic hatchetman on many issues. His blatantly personal ad hominem attacks on me and others involved in the campaign to stop anti-Semitic editorial in the paper certainly marked a low point in what was already an enterprise known for sub-standard journalism. Brenneman's attacks were particularly cowardly, since he knew we couldn't respond — the supposedly "pro-free-speech" *Planet* had a policy of not printing any submissions by those of us who sought to reform it. Ultimately, however, the *Planet* failed because it offended large swaths of the Jewish and business communities. The O'Malleys and their small cadre of ultra left followers obviously had no idea how to run a successful community-based newspaper.

James Sinkinson, Oakland

Why the Focus on Israel?

Since the *Express* saw fit to publish a host of untruths by Richard Brenneman concerning with the demise of the *Berkeley Daily Planet*, it seems only fair that your paper consider printing my rejoinder to Brenneman's manifest falsehoods. Thank you for your consideration of the above. And I here provide a final correction here in the text below of a few more minor typos I have caught. ... When I saw a press screening of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, I was appalled by the film's portrait of Jews exhibiting the worst stereotypical behavior as frequently depicted by anti-Semites which correspondingly had earlier resulted in centuries of persecution. Gibson denied being anti-Semitic and the film was hugely successful at the box office. Then a wise friend of mine said "Bigots who work in the public's eye will sooner or later blunder and reveal their biases." And thus it was with Gibson. Arrested for drunk driving by a Jewish officer, Gibson ranted "Fucking Jews. ... Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world. Are you a Jew?" There is a correlation here with the O'Malleys and their *Berkeley Daily Planet*. Week after week, the paper printed op-eds, commentaries and letters by both Becky O'Malley and contributors obsessed with eviscerating Israel. Indeed, as the meticulously research web site DPwatchdog.com documented, Israel and the Palestinian territories are noted in far greater measure by the *Planet* than El Cerrito and Albany combined, leading many of us to ask, "What is with the O'Malleys' obsession with Israel? Isn't the *Planet* supposed to be a paper focused upon local issues? And if there is to be some emphasis upon international affairs, why is there scant or no mention of the horrific situations in Darfur, the Congo, Tibet, Burma, etc., while Israel is incessantly vilified?" Like Mel Gibson, Becky O'Malley soon clearly demonstrated her antipathy both toward Israel and Jews by her publication of the Iranian Kourosh *Arianpur's* op-ed in which alleged Jewish attitudes were used to *justify* every murderous outrage Jews have historically suffered, including the Holocaust. Despite a huge outpouring of criticism by prominent local politicians and religious leaders, O'Malley tendered no apology for printing screed that would only appear elsewhere in the publications of a David Duke. In response to this outrage, I unilaterally started visiting advertisers asking if their businesses wished to be associated with an anti-Semitic publication. All I had to do was show advertisers the vicious bigotry regularly printed in the *Planet* and 85 percent of them vowed to cease placing ads once their contract with the paper expired. As the cliché would have it, "Birds of a feather flock together" reflects the lockstep perspective of those who worked for or regularly contributed to the *Planet*. Old Lefty columnist Conn Hallinan, for a number of years an editor of the Communist *Party's* US newspaper, *People's World Weekly*, time and again excreted baseless commentary alleging "neo-colonial, imperialist or ethnic cleansing" actions by Israel, largely eschewing the facts. And primary reporter Richard Brenneman, a former Christian Scientist who once served as chief astrologer to a corrupt Indian guru and who used to champion his belief in psychic surgery, was enlisted by O'Malley to pen an eight-page hit piece knocking myself, John Gertz, and Jim Sinkinson for working against the paper. What Brenneman wrote was little more than a litany of lies and half truths. And like Mel Gibson, Brenneman's own venomous smears against Israel and correspondingly Jews, would be reflected in his blog in which he wrote that Zionists conspired with the Nazis during the Holocaust to justify sending Jews to present-day Israel. See http://richardbrenneman.wordpress.com/2009/10/22/apples-and-apples-in-the-mideast for this repugnant "scheme" which speaks volumes about Brenneman's veiled biases.

If you read Brenneman's blog, it may become clear why he was never employed long term by any major publication. His biases consistently contradict his ability to do honest reportage. To cite just one instance, in the *Express* he wrote that I am a member of the IACEB. While I respect that organization and have contributed to it from time to time, I do not belong to it. The actions I took were unilateral stemming from a decision to do something about a toxic Ministry of Hate promulgated weekly in our community by the *Planet*. Finally there is the facile moral banner in which the O'Malleys draped themselves: free speech. If that were the case, why were so many would-be contributions of those critical of the paper and supportive of Israel rejected, to say nothing of the banishment of my rejoinders from Gertz, Sinkinson and yours truly? Free speech indeed! In sum, while a viciously anti-Semitic newspaper has bitten the dust, we still have the generally excellent *East Bay Express* in providing reportage on the Bay Area. One caveat: Associate Editor Robert Gammon called those spearheading the anti-*Planet* movement "ultraconservative Zionists." Yes, Mr. Gammon, we are indeed proud Zionists. But Gertz, Sinkinson and I all happen to be liberal Dems. To avoid your facile and fallacious stereotyping of the *Planet's* critics, all you had to do was call us and ask, something I taught in the very first day of my college journalism 101 course which I doubt you would pass. And while fact-checking is basic to any measure of journalistic integrity, Becky O'Malley acknowledged in *The New York Times* that the *Planet* did not fact-check what it printed. This conspicuous omission from the journalist canon was crystalline in much of what the *Planet* published. As for the *Daily Planet*, few will miss it. Not only did the paper engage in overt journalist malfeasance, printing a book review by the author of the book he himself had written (he just happened to be a major advertiser of the *Planet*), publishing letters to the editor written by a staff volunteer who praised the paper and, as noted, egregiously failing to fact-check. It boggles the mind to think that this, along with the decision to print repulsive anti-Jewish op-eds and letters, is what Brenneman calls a "platform for good *journalism*." But the real crux of the paper's demise may be seen in the following. Just as KPFA's listenership fell by a third during the eight years of the Bush administration, ultimately only those simpletons who still see the US and Israel as evil incarnate took the *Planet* seriously. Most people know that the world is an infinitely more complex place and that PC ideologues in Berkeley represent far fewer individuals in our community than Becky O'Malley, who couldn't transcend her own biases, was remotely capable of comprehending.

Dan Spitzer, Berkeley

Richard Brennemen Responds

Where to begin. I was not born to Mennonites. My family was Presbyterian (the last Mennonites came four generations earlier). He lies when he says my "sole claim to being Jewish stems from the fact (if the man is to be believed at all) that one of his several wives was Jewish." Two exes are Jewish, in fact, and I converted to Conservative Judaism for my first marriage, and though I have been an atheist for the last three decades, the head of Union Theological Seminary back in the 1970s informed me that changing religion didn't mean I wasn't Jewish. I had been baptized into the tribe, as it were.

And Gertz knew I'd converted, because he had posted an entry at his web site criticizing an op-ed I'd written, which included this: "Sinkinson also implies that I'm an anti-Semite, an allegation that drew laughter from my two daughters, who are descendants of both that Goldman and that Sachs as well as Edwin

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Vogel, one of the founders of CIT. They're the step-great-grand nieces of Sir Rudolph Peierls. I converted for my first marriage, and unlike some of my critics, I can remember my bris. I would also add that four of the five great loves of my life have been Jewish by birth."

And yes, I did live in a Hindu household (not an ashram) — in Oakland — and I was a Christian Scientist. But so what: a lot of young people were exploring other religions and philosophies in the '60s and '70s (remember JewBus, Jews who had become Buddhists?) And "practicing atheist"? What the hell is that? If by that he means I don't believe in a deity, true. But there's no practice involved: no dues, no services, no collection plate, not even any friendly get-togethers.

He accuses me of "demonizing" Israel and American Zionists on my blog. If that's the case, Gertz has more than demonized me. My concerns are with the policies of the Israeli government. That doesn't make me a "demonizer" of Israel any more than my criticism of the Vietnam War made me a demonizer of the United States.

I never said John was a Republican, though he has given money to Republican candidates known for their strong support of Israel. Consider Wally Herger, a Republican congressional representative from up north. Why does Gertz, a "liberal," support an incumbent who thinks a public option health care plan is a threat to democracy (see http://www.mtshastanews.com/news/x769902147/Congressman-Herger-calls-Obama-plan-threat-to-democracy)? Just throw his name plus "Israel" into Google and the answer is apparent.

I used the term "Zionist" to describe the critics because their aims regarding the shaping of America's foreign policy in the Mideast differ not in the slightest from those of the Neocons.

And a call to do him violence? I published his business address, just as the *Planet's* business address is published, and just as my own home address is freely available to anyone who wants it. And the "thinly veiled call to do violence"? That implies a criminal conspiracy and is libelous on its face. There was no such intent, but the truth seems to matter little to John Gertz, who has demonstrated his willingness to say anything in support of his cause. And my "radical minions"? Sorry, but I don't have any minions, radical or otherwise.

And the eight articles he mentioned, which appeared in the June 4, 2009, issue of the *Daily Planet* (http://www.berkeleydailyPlanet.com/issue/2009-06-04) were all written by me alone. A separate editorial was written by Becky.

I was never Becky's hatchet man. And Mr. Sinkinson is the man who made "blatantly ad hominem attacks" in his letters to the advertisers about me, accusing me of omitting facts which were right there in the articles I had written. (See here for details: http://www.berkeleydailyPlanet.com/issue/2009-08-06/article/33470) And cowardly? Really. But, oh wait, isn't that an ad hominem attack?

As for Mr. Spitzer, it's hard to know where to begin. While he impugns my *journalistic* integrity and implies I left every previous employer of *journalistic* misdeeds, I've been given job recommendations from every newspaper where I've ever worked. I've also won awards from the State Bar of California, the American Bar Association, the California Newspaper Publishers Association, the Nevada State Press Association, the Greater Los Angeles Press Club (then the nation's largest) and other organizations.

And the blog post he labels "repugnant fiction" is historically accurate, which is why he applies a broad brush about my "unveiled biases." I oppose the violent eviction of people from their homes, whether it's done by G.I.s in Vietnam or by the IDF in the West Bank. I apply no criticism to Israel that I don't apply to my own country. As for the Red-baiting: sheesh. And I'm no Mel Gibson, either. If so, I could afford to have my teeth fixed. Oh, and just for the record, I've never worked for a paper that fact-checks in the way magazines do (and, among other papers, I've worked for the *Sacramento Bee* and the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*).

The accusation of lies and "venomous smears against Israel and, correspondingly, Jews" may be actionable libel, and by lumping me in with Mel Gibson, he's effectively labeled me an anti-Semite — which would come as a great surprise to my Jewish ex-wives and my two Jewish daughters, who seem to think their old man's a lot of alright.

But the accusation of antisemitism is easy to hurl, and done with hope that it sticks.

And Spitzer's visits to advertisers? He just didn't point to articles. He told merchants that if they continued, they'd be boycotted. Or, so at least three merchants he visited have told me and cited as the reason they dropped their ads.

For my stories for the *Planet* on their campaign, I made calls to all three individuals, seeking interviews. Only Gertz accepted.

All three critics neglect to mention that many if not most of the criticisms of Israel published in the paper were written by fellow Jews.

Sinkinson has repeatedly claimed in his mailings that letters to the editor and reader-submitted op-ed pieces critical of Israel were "editorials." They were not, and as a publicist for one pro-Israel lobby (FLAME), he knows that quite well.

I did not agree with the paper in the matter of publishing the two letters which could be considered antisemitic. But I saw them after the fact, and I had no role in shaping editorial policy, as my article made clear.

There was much about the *Planet's* news policies I disagreed with, which was stated in the article. But the paper did provide the base for some very solid reporting along the way. I stand by the journalism I did for the paper, including the articles I wrote about its critics. My article for the *East Bay Express* was, as clearly stated, a personal reflection, and I stand by it.

Sad to See It Downsize

I too am very sad to see this and other papers disappear or downsize, although I was not a regular reader of the *Berkeley Daily Planet*. I was grateful for the paper's coverage of some Oakland issues (I live in Oakland). I thought the article was well balanced.

I am grateful for the *Express*! Please don't go away.

Laurie Unich, Oakland

Self Protection?

A major mouthpiece of the late lamented *Planet* and the author of many tendentious, fictionalized police blotter reports therein, Richard Brenneman is now heard from in the *East Bay Express*. In this article he stops short of spreading that sort of fiction, but the very end of the piece is indicative. Glibly saying the *Planet's* foes considered the paper "a potent symbol onto which they *could* blame their own failures" reaches for a strong or juicy closing phrase, but it's a meaningless (perhaps self-pejorative) assumptions.

Sandy Rothman, Berkeley

Critical Doesn't Spell Anti Semite

Well, the defenders of Zionist expansionism and race-based privilege in Israel have done it again. Congratulations! This time they struck another un-American blow against free speech by contributing to last month's print demise of the *Berkeley Daily Planet* newspaper. The *Planet's* crime? It was the only Bay Area newspaper with genuine balance, regularly printing readers' letters-to-the-editor that humanized Palestinians and characterized what's happening to them in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem as "genocide."

The *Planet* printed such views on an equal par with the usual Arab-dehumanizing views we're one-sidedly fed every day from national news organizations, from major movie and TV studios, and from 99.9 percent of our lawmakers who fear damn well that their re-election chances would be *Berkeley Daily Planet*-ed if they said publicly that Palestinians — like Israeli Jews — equally have the right to defend themselves, and if they were to vote on foreign policy accordingly.

As a US taxpayer and opponent of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, I have a huge stake in knowing how the latest foreign recipient of US money spends my tax dollars. If this recipient were my ancestral Philippines, I'd scrutinize that country's human rights policies more passionately — and criticize it more loudly — than others. (I'm actually going there in May to be an international election observer in the wake of last November's election-related beheadings.) But to whom has this distinction belonged, for decades? Israel. If you don't want to deserve my special criticism, stop taking the lion's share of my taxes!

Even Bay Area enablers of Palestinian genocide — whose ranks distressingly include too many Berkeley folks who have the nerve to call themselves "liberals" — have every constitutional right to their views. So do I, so do you. But what's your opinion worth if you're only getting your Mid-East information from news organizations, major movie and TV studios and politicians who fear their bottom line will suffer if they dare to humanize Palestinians on an equal basis to Israeli Jews? I found it ironic to read Richard Brenneman's thoughtful March 5 obituary for the *Planet* in the *East Bay Express* — a newspaper that, starting September 23, 2009, regularly accepted money to print ads that promoted the notion that the *Planet* was "hysterical, biased and anti-Semitic."

Am I "anti-Semitic" for writing this letter? Even though I don't feel or advocate hostility toward Jews, the Jewish religion, or culture (the definition of an anti-Semite) and even though I don't advocate the end of the Israeli state within its pre-June 1967 borders, that's exactly what activist Bay Area genocide enablers would have you believe. It used to be that "anti-Semite" meant anyone that hates Jews; somehow today "anti-Semite" means anyone that blind defenders of Israel hate.

The way out of this genocide-enabling madness begins with more informed debate, not less. To balance out the hideous one-sidedness in America over the Mid-East debate, here are some web sites that are operated and/or supported by Jews of conscience: shovrimshtika.org, btselem.org/English/, notanotherdime.net, jewishvoiceforpeace.org, ijsn.org, jewssaysno.wordpress.com/about/, and democracynow.org. These folks of conscience don't try to preserve their "liberal" credentials by safely echoing the lame genocide-enabling cop-outs, "It's just too complicated" and "There's no good solution" — exactly the way phony liberals justified taking no meaningful action during the Civil Rights Movement. No, in the face of intense internal community pressure they're bravely making sure they're not on the wrong side of history. Bravo to them!

And on revival print version of the *Berkeley Daily Planet*.

Clarito Arradanas, Berkeley

Journalism or Pandering?

Thanks a heap. The story was a superb recapitulation of a very ugly stereotype — Asians as helpless victims to those wicked black people. The blurb on the cover stated that living in "inner city" Oakland is somehow even more difficult than life in a refugee camp in Thailand. Is that so? The last time I was in Thailand (Jan. 2009) the government was finally sorting out a new constitution because the chiefs of the military had invalidated an election and the previous constitution, both with the blessings of the monarch. The army and oil smugglers were busy blurring the line between politics, economics, and religion in the south because the local smugglers are mostly Muslims, so the perception is that it's an Islamic insurgency. To the east of the country, the Thai and Cambodian armies were taking pot-shots at each other over a Buddhist Temple that lay in a disputed area of the frontier. As for the very heart of the country, there are miles and miles of shanties in downtown Bangkok, made of used two-by-fours and corrugated steel, directly under the #4 turnpike. I haven't personally visited a refugee camp, but I have a sense that living in a tent is in fact less desirable than living even in a hard-scrabble neighborhood of Oakland. At least here the police aren't completely corrupt, and at least here the military answers to the civilian government instead of the vice versa. At least here, the situation stands a chance of getting better.

I don't speak without sympathy for the immigrants in the article. I know that life is hard for all immigrants. My point is that moving to a new country is always difficult, but even a liberal as myself can acknowledge that once you get a footing here, it's a hell of a lot better here than in many, many other corners of the world.

Is this really journalism? It looks a lot more like pandering.

Joseph DiMaio, Oakland

Correction

In our review of Sig Lagle's *Animals in Bloom* (Local Licks, 3/17/10), we misspelled the name of the band. Also, the album was not self released but released on the label respondsow.

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SEVEN DAYS

HEALTH-CARE REFORM HAD TO HAPPEN

There was no upside for Democrats in opposing President Obama. Plus, California voters tilt to the right.

By Robert Gammon

President Obama's health-care-reform victory required nearly every vote. It got it. It needed 216 to pass the House, and it received 219. Helping put the package over the top was every member of the Bay Area's congressional delegation. And though it isn't surprising that Bay Area politicians favored reform, one of them nearly opposed it. If he had, the entire package might have unraveled.

For weeks, Democrat Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton had wavered. His indecision was understandable. He represents the only local Congressional district in which Republicans hold a majority. In 2006, he replaced Republican Richard Pombo. And in recent weeks, the GOP had threatened to use health care as a bludgeon against him this November.

But a vote against health care had no real upside for McNerney. If he had helped kill reform, it would have angered his base. Plus, he voted for essentially the same package last fall. So his Republican opponent would have been able to paint him as a flip-flopper. And so, a day before the vote, McNerney came off the fence and endorsed the most sweeping health-care reform package since the 1960s.

Although Republicans will surely try to use his decision against him, they may not have much success once voters learn about the law's benefits. For example, insurance companies soon will no longer be able to exclude or kick children off of insurance plans because of illness or pre-existing conditions. The law also will prohibit insurance companies from pushing adults off plans when they get sick. Children will be able to be covered by their parents' insurance up to age 26. And lifetime insurance coverage limits will be eliminated.

The GOP has supported those reforms over the years, and so it will be hypocritical to hammer Democrats for finally enacting them. And promising to repeal health-care reform will be tough once voters realize the package is much better than they had been led to believe.

Had Democrats failed to pass the bill, that could have been devastating for them. It would have confirmed critics' complaints that liberals can't govern, which would have been far more damaging to McNerney this fall. After all, he would be known as a member of a party that had the presidency and both houses of Congress, and yet was unable to pass its most important piece of legislation. In short, a no vote would have been political suicide.

California Turns to the Right

The coming weeks and months also will reveal whether the health-care victory and the push to regulate Wall Street will reverse the trend toward conservatism in California and beyond. Recent polls suggest the rightward shift has been dramatic. Last week, the Field Poll showed that GOP gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman had moved into the lead over Democratic Attorney General Jerry Brown, 46 to 43 percent. Whitman had trailed Brown by nearly 20 points a year ago.

Although Whitman's surge can be attributed to her expensive ad blitz during the Winter Olympics and Brown's nonexistent campaign so far, the Field Poll revealed that something more sweeping was at work. The poll showed two Republican candidates in a virtual dead heat against incumbent Democratic US Senator Barbara Boxer. Moderate Tom Campbell was leading Boxer 44-43 percent, while the more conservative Carly Fiorina trailed her 45-44 percent. The turnaround was particularly striking for the ex-Hewlett Packard CEO. She had trailed Boxer by nearly 20 points in early 2009.

Sheila Jordan Does it Again

Alameda County schools Superintendent Sheila Jordan is one of the most ethically challenged politicians in the East Bay. Over the years, the *Express* has detailed her litany of questionable activities. Earlier this month, *Contra Costa Times* political columnist Lisa Vorderbrueggen provided more evidence of Jordan's lack of ethics. Vorderbrueggen uncovered a letter that Jordan sent to companies doing business with the Alameda County Office of Education requesting that they make donations to her reelection campaign.

Soliciting contributions from companies that have contracts over which Jordan has control is not illegal but should be, said Bob Stern, president of the nonpartisan Center for Governmental Studies. "This solicitation is exhibit one for enacting such a ban covering all elected officials," Stern told Vorderbrueggen. "This should be illegal, it certainly is unethical." Jordan's letter also prompted the usually low-key editorial board of the *Times* and the *Oakland Tribune* to criticize her, calling her actions "particularly disturbing."

Three-Dot Roundup

Berkeley city official Ryan Lau resigned from the *Zoning Adjustments Board* last week after the *Berkeley Daily Planet* revealed that he had illegally converted his garage into living space without permits. The web site also reported that Lau, whose job was to uphold the very same laws he broke, may be forced to tear down what he had built. ... Alameda Councilwoman Lena Tam and former San Leandro Mayor Sheila Young dropped out of the race for Alameda County supervisor. Their exits leave a battle between former Assemblywoman Wilma Chan and Alameda Mayor Beverly Johnson to replace outgoing Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker. ... Two Texas oil companies are bankrolling a campaign to roll back California's landmark climate-change law. ... And three Bay Area businesses have joined a lawsuit against Yelp, alleging that the online site extorted them by demanding ad money in exchange for eliminating bad reviews. ●

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510

ECO WATCH

MORE SPRAWL IN PLEASANTON?

Although understandable, a recent court ruling could produce more suburban tract developments — unless state law is changed

By Robert Gammon

When an Alameda County judge overturned Pleasanton's housing cap earlier this month, social justice activists immediately hailed it as a victory for affordable housing. The ruling by Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch will require Pleasanton to finally allow homes to be built for low-income workers. But Roesch's decision went further than that. It also will force the leafy town to accommodate more market-rate housing, which could potentially worsen suburban sprawl and hamstring the fight against global warming.

Roesch ruled that a 1996 voter-approved initiative that capped the number of homes in Pleasanton conflicted with state laws requiring communities to accommodate enough housing for future growth. But the ruling, if it withstands a possible appellate challenge, also could provide a legal excuse for other suburban cities to continue to expand and worsen sprawl. And if they do, it will only put more cars on the road, force longer commutes, and increase greenhouse-gas emissions.

The ruling is not the judge's fault. Pleasanton's housing cap was clearly illegal. Cities can't violate state laws that require them to plan for growth. But the problem is that state law doesn't provide enough incentives that housing and jobs be built next to mass transit. Instead, the law is amorphous; it merely requires that communities meet future "housing needs." It does not limit suburban expansion over dense housing and job creation in urban areas where it will have the least impact on climate change. In short, suburbs are free to attract more jobs as long as they build more housing.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, who sits on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, believes California law needs to be changed to encourage strict new smart-growth standards. "What we really need is good transportation planning coupled with housing development planning," he said. "Growth just to have growth is not the answer."

But Richard Marcantonio, an attorney who represented the group Urban Habitat in its defeat of Pleasanton's housing cap, thinks a landmark state environmental law will help slow suburban sprawl. Known as Senate Bill 375, the law was enacted in 2008 and will take effect over the next several years. It requires that the Bay Area and other regions throughout the state adopt a "Sustainable Communities Strategy" that ties population growth targets and future housing needs with mass transit and greenhouse-gas emissions.

Housing growth? Yes. Smart growth? Not so much.

The new law could help lessen the impact of Roesch's ruling, because regional planning for future "housing needs" will be connected to transportation planning. Current state law, by contrast, treats these issues as if they were in a vacuum. It requires Pleasanton to accommodate more housing because it has become a job center over the past two decades, but it says nothing about whether the new homes should be built near jobs or mass transit. Senate Bill 375 at least attempts to address this problem.

But even though the new law is an important step forward in the fight against climate change, it doesn't go far enough to spur transit-oriented development. For example, the law will not prevent suburban communities from building more tract home developments once the housing crisis is over. Environmentalists also acknowledge that part of the problem is that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission continues to fund expensive suburban road projects that encourage even more sprawl.

Still, Pleasanton's housing cap had to go. In a brief filed in the case, state Attorney General Jerry Brown, who also sought to overturn the cap, noted that nearly 80 percent of the people who work in Pleasanton commute from elsewhere. That's because the city has bent over backward to attract business and jobs over the years but not housing. The judge's ruling will result in more affordable workforce housing and more housing overall, but unfortunately it says nothing about where the new homes will be built. And based on Pleasanton's track record, the city may end up expanding outward rather than building apartments and condos near its BART station.

Ironically, the 1996 law that Roesch overturned was originally supported in part by environmentalists who sought to curb sprawl in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley area. But the cap, coupled with Pleasanton's job growth, only forced sprawl to move into the Central Valley. And so it took a different environmental/social justice group, Urban Habitat, to recognize that Pleasanton's cap was effectively forcing low-paid workers to commute long distances to their jobs and thus should be overturned.

If California is serious about combating climate change, then it clearly needs some powerful incentives for cities to build housing for people not only near their work, but also next to mass transit. And some strong disincentives to help stop sprawl. ■

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FULL DISCLOSURE

THE RETURN OF REEFER MADNESS

A growing number of East Bay cities have banned or are considering bans on medical marijuana dispensaries because of outdated, bogus fears

By Robert Gammon

Californians have recognized that cannabis is a legitimate medicine since 1996. That year, state voters legalized it for medicinal purposes. But a decade and a half later, there's a growing backlash against pot in the liberal East Bay. An increasing number of cities have banned or on the cusp of banning medical marijuana dispensaries. And they're doing it based on out-of-date and unfounded fears reminiscent of the Reefer Madness scare of the 1930s.

Hayward decided to reject medical marijuana dispensaries last month after the city's police union lobbied hard against them. And in the coming weeks, the City of Alameda may ban pot clubs outright. In addition, the county of Contra Costa and several East Bay cities, including Antioch, Brentwood, Concord, Oakley, Pinole, Pleasant Hill, and San Pablo all have banned them in the past several years. Although the 1996 voter initiative legalized medical marijuana, state law still allows cities and counties to prohibit the sale of it.

In the East Bay, cities are closing their borders to medical pot dispensaries in large part on the belief that they're magnets for crime. But there is little evidence to support that claim. For example, Alameda city officials who want to ban cannabis are pointing to a "white paper" published last year by the California Police Chief's Association and endorsed by numerous law enforcement officials around the state, including Contra Costa County District Attorney **Bob Kochly**. But a closer examination of the report reveals that it is deeply flawed and establishes no proof that medical marijuana facilities attract any more crime than other businesses.

Instead, the report highlights a few salacious crimes related to a handful of medical marijuana facilities, and warns that they attract "organized criminal gangs" and that some club operators "have been murdered by armed robbers both at their storefronts and homes." But the report makes no mention of similar crimes affecting other legal businesses.

Moreover, the report focuses on pot clubs in communities that have failed to establish regulations on how they should operate while ignoring the experiences of cities — including Berkeley and Oakland — that have adopted strict rules for medical marijuana facilities. The white paper and officials in cities that have banned pot clubs have failed to note that the medical marijuana facilities in both Berkeley and Oakland have generated almost no crime at all since those cities adopted their straightforward regulatory schemes.

In fact, the police departments in both cities say medical pot facilities now pose virtually no problems nor are they diverting precious resources away from crime fighting. "We haven't seen any issues involving medical marijuana dispensaries," said Oakland police spokeswoman **Holly Joshi**. "They're not generating a lot of calls for service," said Berkeley police spokesman **Andrew Frankel**. "And they're not a drain on resources."

Berkeley Mayor **Tom Bates** and City Councilman **Kriss Worthington**, who often disagree on city issues, both agree that the three sanctioned medical marijuana dispensaries in the city have had virtually no crime associated with them. "The problem is that there is a perception among people that the dispensaries attract crime," Bates said, "but that hasn't been our experience."

"I can't remember getting a single phone call from anybody about crime or other problems with the dispensary in my district," said Worthington, who said many residents and business owners expressed fears before the dispensary opened. "But I have gotten calls from people who said 'Yeah, you were right — they don't cause any problems.'"

In Oakland, Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan** said that both police and neighbors of medical marijuana facilities now welcome them. "When we talk to police about the regulated dispensaries," Kaplan said, "they tell us that they're not just having less crime, they're attracting zero crime."

A complaint often heard in cities that have banned medical pot clubs or are considering banning them is that residents and businesses don't want them in their neighborhoods. "At this time, staff is unable to identify any locations in Alameda that staff believes the community would deem to be acceptable," Alameda Interim City Manager Ann Marie Gallant wrote in a report earlier this month calling for a ban on pot clubs in her city — a proposal the city council plans to take up in the next several weeks.

But in Berkeley, many residents and business owners who opposed medical pot dispensaries opening near them now say they're good neighbors. One reason is that the city's three dispensaries all do an effective job policing themselves. All employ several security guards and enforce strict rules of behavior on their customers. So much so, that some neighbors contend their communities are safer because of the pot clubs' presence, Worthington said.

Likewise, in Oakland, medical pot dispensaries have become part of the fabric of the city's blossoming Uptown District, and the club owners are working to improve their neighborhoods and make them safer just like other businesses. "We have cannabis dispensaries that are members of the chamber of commerce," Kaplan noted. "We have a cannabis dispensary operator who is the chair of his neighborhood crime prevention council."

Another complaint lodged by city officials in both Hayward and Alameda is that they are just too busy to come up with their own regulatory schemes. However, neither city has looked closely at Berkeley or Oakland nor have they seriously considered adopting their successful regulations. Moreover, the decision by cities to ban pot clubs only makes it more difficult for sick people to obtain medicine that gives them relief.

However, the bans are not all bad. In fact, they're helping the cash-strapped City of Oakland. That's because Oakland taxes medical marijuana sales and as other cities force patients to travel to Oakland to get medicine, then it brings in more revenue, noted Kaplan, who co-authored the city's 2009 tax measure. In other words, not only are East Bay cities banning pot clubs out of unfounded fears, but they're harming their own ability to raise funds during one the worst economic downturns since the last time the country was engulfed by Reefer Madness. ●

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The Paramount subsists primarily on high culture, old movies, and other non-concert fare. Kathleen Wentz

OPERATING IN THE FOX'S SHADOW

The aging Art Deco Paramount Theatre is booking fewer shows since its neighbor remodeled

By Kathleen Wentz

Before Oakland's Fox Theater opened about a year ago, board members at the Paramount Theatre feared that the newly renovated venue would take shows away from its Art Deco neighbor. And, it turns out, they were right.

The Fox Theater opened in February 2009, and this fiscal year, the Paramount Theatre will see a 23 percent decline in rentals, according to theater officials. During the Paramount's board meeting last week, General Manager Leslee Stewart blamed the Fox as well as the economy and the changing industry landscape for the decrease.

For example, she said that Live Nation, the huge promotion company that recently merged with Ticketmaster, is refocusing its efforts to book acts at its own venues rather than rent third-party facilities such as the Paramount. For the current fiscal year that ends June 30, the Paramount will have held only ten Live Nation events, two by Another Planet Entertainment (down from an average of about five three years ago), and two by AEG. Smaller independent promoters, meanwhile, find that they lack the financial resources to compete.

Both the Fox and the Paramount are owned by the city, but the Fox is operated by a for-profit promoter, Another Planet, while the Paramount is operated by a nonprofit board. As a result, Another Planet has less of an incentive to book shows at the Paramount since it runs the Fox.

While the Paramount's endowment has increased from about $2.6 million last year to about $3.4 million this year, the theater needs those funds to keep afloat because it receives no city subsidy. The theater also is in need of expensive capital improvements, such as a new roof and paint job, so it may be forced to use its endowment toward those costs. The board expressed frustration toward the city at Wednesday's meeting, for what they believe is continued preferential treatment for the Fox.

In an interview after the board meeting, Stewart said that about eight acts that performed at the Paramount in past years went to the Fox this year. Though she said it would be hard to determine what dollar amount the loss of those shows represents, it's likely significant. Stewart refused to release financial statements even though the Paramount is publicly owned, and is subject to the state's open records law.

Concerts have historically made up the bulk of the Paramount's revenue. Yet of the Paramount's 64 performances to date this fiscal year, only 14 were concerts (meaning music or comedy). Other rental income comes from the Paramount's Classic Movie series, religious services, symphony performances, variety shows, plays, family shows, ballets, lectures, and musicals.

Because of the formal seated setup of the Paramount and because the theater is simply a rental facility and does not have an in-house promoter, the theater's board says it's at a disadvantage in drawing moneymaking shows. Yet critics say the board could do a lot more to maximize the theater's revenue potential. Some believe the city should turn the Paramount over to a private promoter, much like the Fox.

In fact, the Paramount board once had an opportunity to possibly operate the Fox Theater, but because its proposal required a city subsidy, Fox developer Phil Tagami ultimately went with Another Planet, which is more aggressive in its bookings. When asked whether the Paramount would do anything differently in its booking approach or strategy in light of the Fox's success, Stewart responded: "This building is open with open arms and always has been for who would like to present — that hasn't changed."

The question now is whether the Paramount can continue the status quo next to the Fox in light of its capital improvement needs and the city's own financial problems and its apparent hands-off position toward helping with the theater's costs. As for the board's next move, the members agreed they would put their grievances in writing to the city. ●

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Kathleen.Wentz@EastBayExpress.com

Paul Schwartz stays at home with his son, Malcolm, so that his wife, Amy Wilson, can pursue her career at Oracle.

Melissa Gomez

The Rise of the Stay-at-Home Dad

More and more fathers are embracing the role of primary caregiver, allowing their wives to concentrate on their careers.

By Caitlin Esch

Paul Schwartz figured out a way to simulate bobsledding in a warm climate. In an effort to teach his son about the Winter Olympics, the stay-at-home dad perched the 4-year-old atop a light green cooler with wheels. He then dragged the cooler down a paved incline, covering about 100 feet in less than 10 seconds. For that, he won the gold medal.

Known as the "beer-cooler bobsled," the event was just one of several celebrated recently on a playground in Montclair, along with warm-climate versions of curling, slalom, and figure skating. The competitors were the East Bay Dads, a group of about a dozen stay-at-home fathers and their children who meet for weekly play dates.

Schwartz and the dads represent a growing contingent of men who are quitting their day jobs to change diapers while their wives work full time to support the family. Though the recession has played a part in the shifting demographic, for many families the dad's transition to domesticity was a calculated choice. The trend is strongest among middle- to high-income families, and often helps boost the wife's career, affording her the freedom to work long, uninterrupted hours or arrange her schedule around her career — not family.

Last year, the number of working mothers who also were sole breadwinners reached an all-time high, according to a US Census report. Although women still make less than men overall, earning an average of 71 cents to the man's dollar, the percentage of women who out-earn their husbands has jumped from 4 to 22 since 1970, according to a study released that year by the Pew Research Center. Women also are more likely to hold higher degrees than their husbands. Men are more educated only about a fifth of the time.

Stay-at-home dads are still a minority, however. And how many they number is open to debate. The last Census counted only 159,000 stay-at-home dads. But according to Aaron Rochlen, an assistant professor and psychologist at the University of Texas at Austin who studies non-traditional male roles, the number of fathers who assume primary childcare responsibility is actually closer to 2 million and growing.

So what's changing the structure of the American family? There's no doubt that many dads have been forced to stay home because of the economy. Men account for 75 percent of those who recently lost jobs to the recession — making room for a 1 percent increase in working women. But Rochlen believes the growing stay-at-home dad phenomenon has more to do with the ever-expanding boundaries of familial norms.

In families where the wife has a stronger career, the husband is freed up to fill the traditional role of housewife — or in this case, househusband. And many dads are finding that they're comfortable being the primary caregiver. "In my research, we've been hearing that dad is the more patient one," Rochlen said. "Dad likes cooking and cleaning."

The shift makes sense to Paul Schwartz. He quit his job as an attorney several years ago, shortly before his son was born. He recalled a profound moment when a law professor declared equality in the workplace would come only in the wake of joint childcare responsibilities. "I heard that, and I was like, 'Wow,'" he said. "Some women are crashing through the glass ceiling, and some men are picking up the slack with the house."

Schwartz' wife Amy Wilson happens to be such a woman. After graduating from Cornell University, she worked her way up the corporate ladder, and now is a senior director for product strategy at Oracle. Since giving birth, she has been promoted twice, an accomplishment she attributes in part to her husband's position as a stay-at-home dad and de facto life coach.

Wilson said she's "amazed" by career moms who also juggle household duties. She said her husband's role allows her to focus fully while at work. And she said that when she leaves the office, it's nice not to have to run errands, plan dinner, and pick the kid up from school. Instead, she comes home to spend quality time with her son. "I don't have a lot of guilt," she said. "I can work really hard and put a lot of energy into my work, and I don't feel like that's hurting anything else."

But while having one parent at home may make life a little easier, the men who fill that role — just like the at-home moms who came before them — must face the hurdles of parenthood.

In the French documentary film *March of the Penguins*, dad stays at the breeding grounds to incubate his mate's egg after she goes to the sea to fill her belly with fish. For two months, male Emperor penguins shield their eggs from excruciatingly cold temperatures and snowstorms. When the egg finally hatches, he regurgitates a milky, nutritious substance to sustain the young chick until the female returns. By the time she does, the male hasn't eaten anything — except snow — in about four months. In nature, the penguin male fills this role seamlessly. In the frigid Antarctic, it takes two dutiful parents to raise a chick.

So, too, the role of a stay-at-home dad makes perfect sense for some couples. And for Schwartz and Wilson, the decision for him to stay home was made before the egg was even fertilized. She recalled him being bored with his government job and telling her one night, "I just really want to be a dad."

So the couple started trying to conceive, a process that took some time, a fertility coach, and in vitro fertilization. In the meantime, Schwartz had landed his dream job as an attorney at a small labor and employment law firm in Oakland. But achieving his goal had come with a hefty price tag. "The job was starting to conflict with what he wanted in life," Wilson recalled. "He could never say no to anything, and he was working 90 to a hundred hours a week."

The stress took a toll on Schwartz. Right before the couple started fertility treatments, they flew to New Zealand to reassess their life goals. Wilson recommended her husband quit his job, manage the remodeling of their Redwood Heights home, and take care of the baby Schwartz was thrilled. "Those grey hairs are from that job," he said. "When I quit it was like I could breathe again."

Wilson eventually got pregnant, and toward the end of her third trimester she left work on maternity leave. But she said that once her four months of time off were over both she and her husband were more than ready for her to return to work. Knowing that he would be home with the baby made the transition easy. "Two parents home was a little too much," she recalled. "It was all so seamless. One day I just went to work."

That's not to say she didn't cry a little. "For me, having Malcolm was a personal milestone," she said. "I'm only going to do this once. ... If Paul hadn't been home, it would have been a lot more shocking."

Brad Crane finds fatherhood more rewarding than the job he left behind at Peet's.

Melissa Barnes

For Lafayette residents Brad and Alison Crane, the decision for him to stay home with the kids was equally simple. As a lawyer, Alison's salary accounted for 75 percent of the couple's combined income. Brad was an assistant manager at Peet's, a $35,000-a-year job that wasn't something he aspired to or particularly enjoyed. The couple wanted to provide the one-parent-at-home lifestyle for their kids — now ages six, three, and one. But Alison said it was never a viable option for her to be that parent.

In the years since Brad's been home, Alison was promoted to partner of her law firm, a position she said she would be happy with for the indefinite future. "Having my kids at home with the person who I know loves them more than anything else in the world allows me not to be stressed at work," she said. "I like to think my life would have panned out the same way if a different decision had been made. I like to think that I'd still be an attorney. On the other hand it really does make my life as a working mom much, much easier."

And for Brad, full-time fatherhood is more rewarding than the job he left behind. He said he always assumed he'd return to work when the kids got older, but he's starting to realize that parenting doesn't get any simpler when kids start school. "As they get older their lives get more complicated, which makes having a parent around even more important," he explained in an e-mail. "They need someone helping them to make good decisions."

But not every stay-at-home dad decides to become the primary caregiver before the baby comes. Fellow East Bay Dad Joel Turner quit his construction job after his son Gabriel was born a year and a half ago. Turner initially took some time off to stay home with his wife and infant. Three weeks then turned into three months. And when his wife, Cathy Barragan, returned to work, they decided that Turner wouldn't go back at all.

The arrangement wasn't what the couple had in mind when they decided to have a child. Barragan said she and Turner planned to co-parent with each working part time. But in order to maintain her family medical benefits, she needed to work about 30 hours a week. His company was downsizing anyway, and because she earned more, they agreed it would be economically safer for him to stay home with the baby.

Since college, Turner has earned a living as a photojournalist, a commercial fisherman, and a construction worker. Most recently, he worked in architectural salvage. He said when he eventually returns to work he'll look for a job in early childhood education, a position that caring for a baby has prepared him for. But for now, full-time fatherhood suits him. "I complain about being bored, but I know that I'll look back on this as the best job I'll ever have," he said. "It's a unique opportunity that you may never get again. Down the road I hope that this will have an effect on him."

Dressed in a black hoodie sweatshirt emblazoned with a white skull and a baseball cap, Paul Schwartz looks a little like an overgrown kid. His manner with his young son is both parental and conspiratorial. They're almost like a pair of pals roaming around looking for their next big adventure.

But being a stay-at-home dad isn't all fun and games. Schwartz admits to ups and downs. The ups include being present for Malcolm's first word: "Dada." And the downs mean occasionally feeling ostracized from the adult world.

Several years into the gig, the Mr. Mom jokes — or in Schwartz' case, the "Mrs. Wilson" remarks — still sting. "I've definitely felt the stigma of being a stay-at-home dad," Schwartz said. "It's funny: when people ask me what I do, I still start with the word 'actually.' Why do I say that? Maybe it reveals some self-embarrassment. It's a little sales job."

Schwartz also recalled feeling isolated and lonely during his early days of fatherhood, when Malcolm was an infant. He didn't know many other stay-at-home dads, and chit-chat proved impossible during trips to the park — all the other adults with small children were non-English-speaking nannies. "As a stay-at-home parent, you're ostracized," he said. "I realized I was getting kind of weird, so I started to schedule things to get me out of the house and interact with other adults."

Feelings of isolation can be much more pronounced in men because stay-at-home dads are relatively rare, explained Rochlen, the University of Texas psychologist. Male identity also is closely tied to financial and career success. So for new stay-at-home dads, the transition can be daunting. "I have yet to meet a man who grew up thinking 'I want to be a stay-at-home father,'" Rochlen said. "But there might be one in thirty years."

Although Schwartz misses the social interaction and political discourse of his former life, he insists that watching his son grow up has been worth it. The wonder of fatherhood shows up on his blog, BigDaddyPaul.com. "Fully potty trained and able to eat exotic foods like salami, [older preschoolers] for the most part talk and function like real people," Schwartz noted in one post.

He also revels in his good fortune — trading a career that forced him to leave Super Bowl parties early for a life of father-son museum outings, bowling, football, golf, baseball, and trips to the horse track. For Schwartz, a sports lover who fancies himself a "soccer dad" and a "third base coach," another of Malcolm's milestones came before the Tiger Woods sex

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scandal. "The first time he recognized Tiger Woods on TV, I said, 'Who's that?'" Schwartz recalled. "He said, 'That's Tiga.'"

One rainy morning, Schwartz took Malcolm to Habitot, a "hands-on children's museum" in Berkeley. Habitot is a paradise for messy kids, complete with a fake grocery store, cafe, and barnyard. There's also a crafts room with a wall you can paint on and a mountain of gak, a sticky Play-Doh-like substance. Malcolm was especially drawn to the train set. He played peaceably enough until another mom grabbed a toy hammer out of his hand, explaining that it belonged to her son.

Schwartz watched, annoyed. "We teach our kids not to grab things out of others' hands and to share," he said. "And then we go and break the rules."

Confused, Malcolm turned to his dad and said, "Let's play with the sticky stuff." And they were off.

Later, in the water playground with a tub of floating anatomically correct babies for washing (or drowning), Malcolm grabbed a doll and dropped it into a tub, submerging it in water. "I didn't grow up playing with dolls," Schwartz reflected, watching Malcolm with the baby. "And I don't want to now, but we're trying not to enforce gender stereotypes."

When Malcolm took his shoes and socks off, it became obvious that Schwartz wasn't kidding. The boy's toenails were painted blue. "That's something he did with Amy," Schwartz explained.

Joel Turner quit his construction job following the birth of his son, Gabriel.

Melissa Barnes

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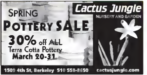

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Trying to raise a kid without enforcing gender stereotypes isn't the only challenge. In a blog post "A World Without Tantrums," Schwartz contemplated the Montessori style parenting technique of allowing his son to do whatever he wants, whenever he wants, thus avoiding the ritual outbursts that follow rule enforcement. "Each subsequent meltdown would cause me to fall farther into the chasm of parental self doubt," Schwartz wrote. "What was I doing wrong?"

In the post "Whoops" Schwartz detailed the time he bought Malcolm a fake shaving kit (a big hit) but forgot to school the four-year-old in the danger of real razors. Malcolm later confused his mom's razor for a toy and attempted to shave his face, gashing his lip in the process. "Sometimes, I don't think I'm even fit to raise a llama," Schwartz lamented. A commenter then tried to comfort Schwartz, writing, "A friend of mine found her two year old scarfing down her birth control pills and washing it down with the last of the wine from the previous night. So cheer up, she's almost as unfit as you guys."

Schwartz also has written openly about his son no longer taking naps, not yet reading, and having a fetish for Mary Poppins. He documents small humiliations: "Today Malcolm threw pitchers of water on toddlers and took pretend eggs away from little girls," and milestones: "In the blink of an eye, Malcolm is potty trained."

Alison Crane said the hardest thing to sort out initially was the division of labor. "I'd get home and he'd want to pass [the baby] off to me — he thought he was off the clock," she said. "On the weekend he'd say 'It's your day.' And I thought, 'Where's my turn in all this. Where's my me-time? Or is my continuing to work my me-time?'"

Women are often conflicted about the role of sole breadwinner and the long hours that sometimes come with the gig. Some say they feel guilty that they aren't the ones raising their children. Others feel like they inevitably work harder than their husbands, juggling the demands of a full-time job and motherhood.

Barragan now works full time as a marketing coordinator at a nonprofit organization in Oakland. Although the arrangement has pushed her career forward, that wasn't really her goal. And sometimes, she feels like she has two demanding jobs, while her husband has only one.

She also said she now understands how working fathers might feel. "Gabriel doesn't understand why I leave him all day," she said of her son. "When I leave in the morning, he'll blow me kisses. It's heart breaking. His memories are of me coming and going, and I hope that it doesn't affect him in the future."

Of course, having one parent out of the job market often costs a household half its income. That's been a challenge for Turner and Barragan. They live in a one-bedroom apartment in Alameda, and Turner said they've had to sacrifice to make it work.

But Barragan hopes they can eventually work out a schedule where co-parenting is possible. Still, she said she considers herself "spoiled" despite the challenges. "It would feel weird to have someone else with the baby," she said. "I can check in whenever. I can call and say, 'What are you guys doing?'"

Not every at-home father chooses the role. For many, the transition comes only after being laid off. The number of unemployed married dads doubled between 2007 and 2009, jumping from 3 to 6 percent, according to a recent Census report. And for those dads, the transitional challenges are intensified, the sudden drop in household income unwelcome.

Frank Schellenberg is a scientist with a doctorate from Stanford University. He lost his lucrative job in the electronic design automation industry in May. Since then, Schellenberg, his son, nine, and his wife get by on his severance package and his wife's salary from her full-time job as an attorney.

Though Schellenberg is busy looking for funding for a new start-up, he spends most of his days around his Palo Alto home and finds himself parenting his son in ways he didn't always have time for in the past — like shuttling the fourth grader to and from school, enforcing homework rules, and regulating movie time.

Schellenberg even guest lectured his son's class when they were studying electricity and magnetism, instructing elementary-schoolers in the secrets of microwaves and radio building. "He's gotten huge credit from other kids for having a dad who can work magic," Schellenberg said. "If I were working, I would not have been able to do that."

Schellenberg's job required him to put in fifty-hour weeks and travel frequently. But even though he knows his son likes having him around more, he worries about the impact a laid-off father can have on a son. "I'm not the greatest model of what having a career looks like at the moment," he said. "Encouraging him to be a scientist like I have been would ring pretty hollow right now. I'm not sure what I would encourage him to be."

Last year, the number of working mothers who also were sole breadwinners reached an all-time high, according to a report from the US Census Bureau.

And after working full time, nonstop, all of his adult life, Schellenberg stresses over no longer providing for his family. He clearly regrets the impact it has on his wife. She works longer hours and later nights than she used to, and she's had to put her dream of working for a nonprofit on hold. "She's bound to," he said. "She has to work harder not to lose her job. And it's not what she dreamed she would be doing when she was in law school."

As demographics shift to meet the changing needs of the modern family, it's increasingly common to see a tired child with a scraped knee reaching through the air for dad. And in a decade or so, perhaps it will become common for dads to take their daughters shopping for prom dresses, creating a whole new type of role model for young children.

Joel Turner said he now has an emotional closeness to his son that would have been nearly impossible to attain had he been working. He believes a mother's bond to her child predates birth, and that his son will always yearn for his mother, whether she spends all day with him or not. Not so for the father, he said.

Likewise, Paul Schwartz said his young son Malcolm has always favored his mother, even though he's the primary caregiver. After a long day with dad, Malcolm's enthusiasm for his mother is evident when she walks through the door at 6:05 p.m. He dances at her feet, and begs to show her a recent accomplishment. She follows him to the train tracks he built hours before with his father. Schwartz then retreats to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

The East Bay Dads also admit to feeling anxiety over reentering the job market after being out of the game for two, five, or ten years. Turner said that after only a year and a half out of work, he feels "outdated." And Brad Crane wrote in an e-mail: "Realistically, I'd be a 40-something-year-old applicant with no experience. That doesn't look so good on a resume." Schwartz also admits he's worried. "We need to have a longer-term game plan," he said. "If anything happened to [Wilson's job], I'd probably go back to working as an attorney."

When the economy eventually does perk up, laid-off stay-at-home dads will likely return to work, and even those who chose the role will have more opportunities, which has led many to wonder whether better times will lead to more women, once again, staying home to be moms. But Rochlen believes the trend will not necessarily reverse itself. "The greater presence of men in these roles has an impact, even if it's on an unconscious level," he said. "Men will be willing to give it a shot. It's easier to jump on the bandwagon than to be a trend starter."

Unsure of what the future holds, Schwartz is certain he no longer wants to work as a lawyer if he doesn't have to. But what will he do when Malcolm gets older and starts school? "I'd like to publish a book, something about Malcolm and I, maybe based on my blog," he said. "Like a memoir." ●

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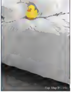

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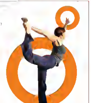

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Brian Bergondy

CULTURE SPY

TURN THIS TEA PARTY OUT

Brian Bergondy poaches hip-hop, preaches politics

By Rachel Swan

There's a new video making the rounds on YouTube. It opens with wide shots of the US Capitol building and Lincoln Memorial, then zooms in on a young man with a dour expression, trudging through the National Mall. The man is actually a rapper — and as rappers go, he's fairly clean-cut: baseball cap, Timberland boots, close-cropped goatee. He goes by the name Hi-Caliber, and most — perhaps all — of his raps hew to a single theme. Hi-Caliber is a stalwart for the Tea Party movement. He disparages Nancy Pelosi, Charlie Sheen, and 9-11 Truthers. He's just one in a bevy of conservatives who chose hip-hop as a means to preach patriotism.

Tea Party rappers find strength in numbers. Hi-Caliber may be the most visible, but he's not running a one-man campaign. There's also Griffenz, whose "Money Bomb" became the unofficial anthem for Ron Paul's 2007 campaign. There's Politik, who enjoys rapping in a suit and tie. There's Molotov Mitchell, frontman for the group Wolverines, who garnered fame by calling President Obama an "OTP" ("one term president"). There's a parody rap called "Tea Party," by P-Unit (*Yo where my WASPS at?*). And there's even a local rapper named Brian Bergondy — aka "the Conservative Kid" — who is steadily building his own cult of personality.

The son of an outspoken Teamster-turned-Republican politician, Bergondy grew up with a litany of conservative stations ringing in his ear. His father Bruce W. Bergondy ran for California's 14th Assembly District office in '82, '84, and '86, using the slogan "Don't judge me by what I do, judge me by what I undo."

The younger Bergondy launched his hip-hop career in church. He was raised Catholic, attended All Saints Catholic School in Hayward, went to mass every Sunday, and felt guilty for liking the music of Tupac, Kid Rock, and Eminem. "My influences in rap are a lot of people who I wouldn't want to associate with," he said. His first raps promoted two-parent households and discouraged women from having abortions. He eventually started doing weddings and corporate parties. His mother coaxed him into rapping for a friend's sixtieth birthday. He once rapped a eulogy. He says he has even performed Christmas parties for AT&T, Costco, and Comcast, charging up to $600 a pop. His big break will happen April 15, at a Tea Party rally in Pleasanton.

Bergondy has fashioned himself a business model that seems more suited to a cover band than a rapper. A marketing and promotions guy in real life, Bergondy applies a bullet point methodology to hip-hop. "If it's a wedding," he said, "send me an e-mail that's at least four or five paragraphs. ... Send me info on you, your fiancé, your family, where you grew up, favorite color, pets, what color is your car, do you want to have kids — everything. I'll pick and choose." He continued, "It seems to touch people in a very personal way. It's like telling your story that you already know, and people who know you know most of it, but there's certain things they don't know."

The 31-year-old has a homespun, folksy demeanor that belies his well-honed business acumen. He's freckled, charismatic, and self-effacing. He grew up as an altar boy and worked as a bartender in his early twenties. He describes himself as "reasonably articulate." He refers to waitresses as "sweetheart." Bergondy sometimes performs over CD instrumentals, but prefers rapping a cappella. He demonstrated his freestyling skills at Buffalo Bill's Brewery in downtown Hayward. "*I'm the Conservative Kid/I'm modest as can be/I just met Rachel Swan, she's drinkin' an iced tea/Honestly, I hope with this interview I passed the test/You know with the best magazine in the Bay is East Bay Express.*"

Event Details
Brian Bergondy performs Thursday, April 15 at Alameda County Fairgrounds (Valley & Bernal Sts., Pleasanton), 2-7 p.m. PleasantonTeaParty.com

He got to flex his freestyle muscle during a recent interview on Hot Tea Radio, an Internet station run by Tea Party crusaders under the auspices of Blog Talk Radio. A host put Bergondy in the hot seat, instructing him to bust a few lines about the new Super Bowl champs. He thought fast, and came up with four lines about the Saints. The verse was good enough to pass muster.

Bergondy owes some of his momentum to his partnership with Shawn Hickman, a fellow Christian rap enthusiast and aspiring mogul. They met in 2001 while attending services at East Bay Fellowship Church in Danville. Hickman caught a few of Bergondy's performances and thought the kid was onto something — he had smarts, charisma, and a natural stage presence. They worked well as a team. Bergondy had a good salesman's pitch and a business degree from Fresno State. Hickman knew how to build a web site and do search engine optimization. Moreover, he shared Bergondy's reverence for family values and originalist interpretations of the US constitution. Their friendship recently advanced to an artist-manager relationship, and since then Bergondy has gone from rapping at weddings to landing radio spots. The most noteworthy thus far were Brian Sussman's show on Talk Radio KSFO, and the nationally syndicated Jesse Lee Peterson Show (oft-cited as the voice of conservative African Americans). Hot Tea Radio used portions of a Conservative Kid track as bumper music.

"We're the West Coast presence of conservative rapping," said Hickman, who also manages a couple Christian rock groups.

"Except there's no East Coast-West Coast beef," Bergondy added, obviously aware of at least one more difference between himself and Tupac.

Perhaps, in this age of "culture jamming," it's not that odd for two staunchly traditionalist church goers to appropriate hip-hop as a medium. Bergondy might be an interloper or an outlier, but he's also got a few things in common with his backpacker counterparts. For one thing, he and Hickman see themselves as part of an outlaw culture. It's easy to be conservative in a Red State, but not so much in the Bay Area, where both guys remain reticent when the talk veers to politics. With sorts. Bergondy doesn't tow a straight-ahead GOP line, and sometimes his politics get pretty diffuse. His best known track, "What Needs to Be Said," is angry at a lot of things (dictators, UN sanctions, the massacres at Fort Hood), none of them innately liberal. He does, however, chide liberals for having "a skewed point of view." In more directly partisan tracks, Bergondy carps about taxes and calls President Obama a socialist.

Bergondy stoutly defends the arguments in "What Needs to Be Said." "It does rip Obama. It also rips the UN quite harshly. You a UN fan? Oh, sorry. No love for the UN."

For most of his adult life, Bergondy treated hip-hop as a fun side project. Now, with the Tea Party movement well under way, the laws of supply-and-demand have shifted in his favor. "The talent is there — now there's a market for it," said Hickman. "That's kind of unbelievable."

Bergondy scoffed. "Who would have thought? Conservative rap."

To share this story, go to: eba.ly.py/bergondy

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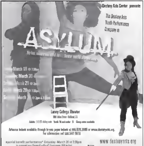

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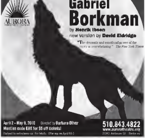

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Nicole Klosterman

Dinner with Fronny and Zooey

For Nicole Klosterman, reading is a social act.

The average adult has enough literary knowledge to hold his own at cocktail parties when the talk turns to books. But a real reader would have no trouble identifying Humbert Humbert, Queequeg, Scarlet O'Hara, Bigger Thomas, or Mr. Kurtz. Nicole Klosterman is one such reader. She voraciously consumes books, mostly classics: Shakespeare, *Beowulf*, Oscar Wilde, Mark Twain. Some picture books. A few Newberry Award winners. She's read some books enough times to describe the plot twists with photographic recall. She'll tell you what the characters ate, what music they listened to, when and why they had nervous breakdowns. Klosterman reads for pleasure and escape, but also as a means of preserving the craft. To her, reading is a private act with social dimensions.

A devout adoration for the written word led Klosterman to produce a series of reader's theater events called **"Literary Themed Cuisine."** Each consists of a dinner based on a certain canonical text. For *Heart of Darkness*, she made a salad with roasted beets and hearts of palm, a couple Congolese dishes, and heart-shaped chocolate. She celebrated T.S. Eliot's *The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock* with crab cake. For Sunday's commemoration of J.D. Salinger's 1961 novel *Franny and Zooey*, she'll serve a meal of chicken sandwiches and salad with garlic dressing. Klosterman culled those details directly from the book. Franny orders chicken salad while dining at a swanky Yale student lunch spot with her boyfriend. Lane opts for frogs legs and snails — a dish that Klosterman couldn't replicate. She chose the garlic dressing as an appropriate stand in.

Sunday's event is the latest in a spate of similar book-themed shindigs. Since launching the series in 2009, Klosterman has covered a vast swath of AP English curricula. Her first-ever event was a trial run based on Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Klosterman hasn't disclosed the menu for that one, so we'll just hope it involved cucumber sandwiches). It proved successful, so Klosterman got more ambitious, adding costumes, art installations, and a dramatic component in which participants read parts of the text. Klosterman hewed several events to the theme of epic journeys and chose the books accordingly: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Beowulf*, Homer's *Odyssey*, and *Where the Wild Things Are*. She designed a dinner around Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* using candles and glow-in-the-dark objects. That one was a comedy of errors, she said. "We were burning ourselves reading the script."

Klosterman hopes such efforts will eventually propel her to the Fringe Theater Festival in New York, where she'll unveil a new surrealist project. In the meantime, she encourages Oakland to keep reading. Literary Themed Cuisine happens Sunday, March 28, at **Royal Nonesuch Gallery** (4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), 6-9 p.m., donations welcome. RoyalNoneSuchGallery.com

— Rachel Swan

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4th Annual Not a Border: Language, Laughter and Children Celebration Local artists offer new adaptations of games, lotería. Wed., March 24, 7 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Benefit for East Bay Food Not Bombs With Bhuttos, Carol Denney, and psychedelic cellist. Vegetarian and vegan meal served. Fri., March 26, 8 p.m., $12. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.

Spring Shopping Event With artisan vendors, plus discounts and sales at neighboring retailers. Sale items [illegible] furniture, men's and women's apparel. March 21-28, free. Camelia Street Garden, Camelia St., Berkeley.

KIDS

2010 Youth Ethnic Studies Institute College prep workshops, resources, and dinner, plus music by Beats & Flows. Wed., March 24, 4-7 p.m., donations. Institute Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629.

Art Garden for Children with Disabilities Ages 8-16 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Minimum five students per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Breakfast with Bunny Easter Bunny breakfast for kids ages 2-5 and their parents. Wed., March 31, 9:30-10:30 a.m., $9, $7. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill. 925-676-5200.

Children's Fairyland Attractions and Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the animals of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m., $6. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

[illegible] A creativity Adaptation for kids grades 2-12. Please preregister. Ongoing, start anytime. Fridays, 4:30-6 p.m., $15 session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Eggstravaganza Egg hunt for grade month [illegible] Sat., March 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., free. East Bay SPCA Oakland Adoption Center, 8323 Baldwin St., Oakland. 510-569-0702.

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PICKS

Benefit for East Bay Food Not Bombs

The [illegible] fist is purple fist clenching a carrot has become so ingrained over the last three decades that it rivals the marijuana leaf or the hammer and sickle in terms of left-wing political currency. This spring, **Food Not Bombs** celebrates its triumphal thirty-year anniversary with a series of parties, vegan dinners, panel discussions, and fund raisers. The **Art House Gallery & Cultural Center** (2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) will host one such event on Friday Mar. 26, featuring a vegetarian and vegan buffet with musical performances by Carol Denney and psychedelic cellist Sylvia Bagge. 6 p.m., $12 suggested donation. BerkeleyArtHouse.wordpress.com — *Rachel Swan*

Love Pistols in Color

Graffiti artist and low-rider enthusiast [illegible] Peres opened his West Berkeley art gallery in 2008 with help from his late father Paul Peres, and fellow artist Planet Hernandez. By that point, Paul Peres had gone from buffing cars to refinishing furniture, and he helped the young founders configure their space and develop their concept. Pueblo Nuevo Gallery (1828 San Pablo Ave., #1, Berkeley) has since become one of the hottest new art spaces in town. On Saturday Mar 27 the curators will unveil their new abstract mural [illegible] featuring huge splashes conceived by Carly Ivan Garcia plus typographic paintings by ARMO (who deems graffiti as a structured art form with its own canon). Called "Love Pistols in Color," the exhibit shows subway-style art with loud colors and weird geometric proportions. It's arresting. Reception features DJs Wamway Lavelle, Baby Tiger and 3rd Degree. 6-11 p.m., free. PuebloNuevoGallery.com — R.S.

Meyers Center, locations. 510-521-1843, GoldenIslandCity.org.

Kids' Book Social. A new reading group for children who love books. Last Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-noon. [illegible] 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8965, [illegible]bookspace.com.

[illegible] Self Oakland for Girls Certified instructor [illegible] leads these classes just for girls ages 10-16 [illegible] Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m. [illegible] 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-5393.

Los Amigos Presents Marisela & [illegible] Children's concert. Sat., March 27, 10:30 a.m. $3-$8. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

[illegible] for Kids Beginning [illegible] Indian classical [illegible] Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. [illegible] College of Indian Classical Arts, 3304 Delaware St., Berkeley, 510-213-2441, [illegible].org.

Spring [illegible] Camp Video production classes for kids ages 13 and up. [illegible] March 29-April 2, $395. Berkeley Community Theatre, 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-6593.

Wild [illegible] Children's program featured stories, music, and magic tricks. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

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or m.EastBayExpress.com

Wildlife Golden On Saturdays, hear a story and meet an [illegible]. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m., Sundays, 1:45 p.m., free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland, 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

LGBT

[illegible], Wednesdays A social gathering where transgender girls, cross-dressers, and first-timers are welcome. Enjoy [illegible] and a large selection of clothing for the woman in you. Dress up. Bring friends, take photos, and get hidden tips. Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m., $15-$20 [illegible] [illegible], I Love K, 45078 Warm Springs Blvd. #1, Fremont, 510-656-4738, [illegible].com.

East Bay Front Oakland Join the [illegible] group for noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by drinks at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly locations. Saturdays, 9:16 a.m., free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. Berkeley [illegible], 2101 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-6740.

Express 20s Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their [illegible]. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., $5-$20 suggested donation. 510-548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8283, PacificCenter.org.

LGBT Youth Group Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/music. Thursdays: hot topics/guest speakers. Fridays: open rap/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., Thursdays, 4-6 p.m., Fridays, 4-6 p.m., free. (510) 548-8283, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8283, PacificCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Salsa, [illegible] Trivia game for cash and prizes. Tuesdays, 9 p.m., free. Beckett's, 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790, BeckettsIrishPub.com.

[illegible] Trivia Night hosted by Justin & Teresa. Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Cafe, 6501 Oakland Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344, [illegible]Cafe.net.

Laugh Club Medical [illegible] has proven that laughter is good for you, so come down for a half-hour laugh session. Tuesdays, 10 a.m., $1 facility use fee for [illegible], $2 for nonresidents, 925-230-4500. San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

The Living Philosophers Group A postgrad discussion group. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., [illegible].net. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-5190.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Oakland [illegible] Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Imani Community Church, 3300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-531-0411, [illegible].org.

Singles Wine Tasting [illegible] Party Cosponsored by the Society of Single Professionals. Visit [illegible].com or TheParty[illegible].com for more info. Sat., March 21, 8 p.m., $30. [illegible] Restaurant, 3701 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

Golden Creek [illegible] A postgrad [illegible] group. Every other Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., [illegible].net. [illegible] Vineyard.org, Cafe La Scala, 1503 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-933-1179.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Memphis Almond [illegible] Running Festival Health & Fitness Expo, full marathon, half-marathon, team relay, kids fun run and twilight 5K race at Lake Merritt. For info, visit [illegible].com. March 27-28, Frank Ogawa Plaza, 14th and locations, [illegible].

Memphis Soccer Golden Soccer and [illegible] Saturday of every month, 11:45 a.m. [illegible] Arbor Park, MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Pleasant Hill [illegible] Sign-Ups Youth team sign-ups. Sat., March 21, 12-2 p.m., Tue., April 20, 6-8 p.m., [illegible] Center, 3100 Pleasant Hill Rd., Pleasant Hill.

Proof for Hiking, Walking, and Golden Lecture by [illegible]. Tue., March 30, 7-8:30 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-4140, REI.com.

Thursday Night Runs East Bay Run Club presents 3-6 mile runs, with distances provided by [illegible]. For info, visit EastBayRunning.com. Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. Continues through June 7, free. [illegible] Run Sports, 5817 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-2681, [illegible].com.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Golden State Warriors Vs. Memphis Grizzlies NBA basketball. Wed., March 24, 7:30 p.m., $10-$250, [illegible].com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors Vs. Dallas Mavericks NBA basketball. Sat., March 27, 7:30 p.m., $10-$250, 1-888-GSW-HOOP, [illegible].com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121.

Tee & Opera Golf 10% off your tee fee with a ticket stub from the live/simulcast opera [illegible] the Haven. Sat., March 27. Golden Tee Garden, 22900 Main St., Hayward.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

$5 FRIDAY MAR 26 @ BAM/PFA

EXPANDED CINEMA

with KONRAD STEINER'S NEO-BENSHI & JORDAN BIREN'S ALL THAT PASSES BEFORE YOU, ALREADY IN RUIN ★ 7:30 PM
PROGRAMMED BY BAM/PFA FILM CURATORS KATHY GERITZ & STEVE SEID
DOORS ★ CASH BAR ★ KALX DJ ★ 6 PM

GALLERIES OPEN UNTIL 9 PM
WILLIAM T. WILEY: IN RETROSPECT ★ JAMES CASTLE: A RETROSPECTIVE ★ AHMET ÖGÜT: EXPLODED CITY/ MATRIX 231 ★ THOM FAULDERS: SAMSCAPE

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM @ PFA THEATER
$9.50, add'l feature $4; free admission to L@TE with same-Friday PFA ticket

EVE 7 PM Joseph Losey (France/Italy, 1962; 116 mins.)

TIME WITHOUT PITY
9:20 PM Joseph Losey (U.K., 1957) [illegible]

L@TE ON APRIL 2 ★ KEN UENO AND JOAN JEANRENAUD

CAFE MUSE OPEN FOR DINNER! 5-7:30 PM

GET MORE: bampfa.berkeley.edu/late
BAM/PFA: 2626 Bancroft Way   PFA Theater: 2575 Bancroft Way

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L@TE
FRIDAY NIGHTS @ BAM/PFA

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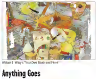
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES


William T. Wiley's "Your Own Blush and Flood"

Anything Goes

The whit and wizdumb of William T. Wiley

"I was astounded at such sagacity and such baseness, such alternately true and false notions, such absolute perversion of feeling and utter turpitude, and yet such uncommon candor." That's Diderot on his comic antihero in *Rameau's Nephew* (also the title of a Michael Snow film), but it could have been critical head-scratching in the 1960s about the humorous, idiosyncratic work of Californian **William T. Wiley**. Interpreting his cacophony of images and writing (jokes, learned musings, puns, misspellings, homonyms, malapropisms, spoonerisms and self-deprecating stage whispers — no Bob Ross "happy little trees" here!) as an assault on aesthetic purism, hostile gatekeepers of taste branded him Metaphysical Funk Monk, Dude Ranch Dadaist, grinning fiddler Huckleberry Duchamp, and — the unkindest cut — purveyor of "an arch pseudo-back woods Scholasticism." Time has vindicated the trickster-sage of Woodacre, however. Wiley is now having a large retrospective, ***What's It All Mean*** at **Berkeley Art Museum**, the only West Coast venue for this Smithsonian traveling show, and an early proponent, during its 1970 opening featuring a Wiley/Robert Hudson performance, museum director Peter Selz demanded, "Gimme some art!"

Done! While Marcel Duchamp has been called a one-person art movement, the term could be applied equally to Wiley, who abandoned his masterly 1950s student work after finding Abstract Expressionism's "heavy moral trip" and heroic combat ethos antithetical to his playful, mercurial temperament. He found his way through drawing, tinted with watercolor, considered at the time a lowly medium. These drawing/paintings developed into sprawling landscapes/maps on simulated weathered parchment. Despite their absurdist humor and visual inventiveness, they tackle big issues: the defoliation and pacification of Vietnam, apartheid, genocide, police abuse of power and political violence, offshore drilling and ocean desertification, fundamentalism and creationism, and the "old lie," glorifying and glamorizing war. Formally speaking, Wiley's expansion of the assemblage tradition, particularly as evidenced in his Rube-Goldberg-in-buckskin sculptures, makes him the Left Coast Rauschenberg (his semi-erased "Mona Lisa Wipe Out..." pays homage to Maximum Bob, with additional nods to deKooning, Duchamp, and Leonardo). His mixture of art-history appropriations (Winslow Homer, Bosch, Bruegel and Manet), cartoon surrogates (Mr. Unnatural and Zeus) and comic patter create a cultural mash-up that never settles into political correctness or hardens into aesthetic amber, remaining unruly, alive, and undogmatic. On a palette, anything goes — well, if you can bring it off, anyway. Catalog available; special events include April 24 gala, April 25 symposium, and May 21 performance; Wiley films will be screened at Pacific Film Archive at various dates. *What's It All Mean* runs through July 18 at **Berkeley Art Museum** (2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) 510-642-0808 or BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

— DeWitt Cheng

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/c/wiley

ART GALLERIES

Barber Cafe: Preservation and Upkeep: Photography and Design from Brooklyn to the Bay Photography with prismatic underpinnings by Eva Silverman. Through April 1, free. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-735-0216, AcusaCafe.com.

Alphonse Berber Gallery, Works That Disturb the Moonlight Show focusing on the grotesque and the sublime, featuring work by Anne McKnight, Angie Crabtree, Julia CS Evans, Joshua Bertrand, Kim Yo, Igor Maja Russo, and Rachel Kahn. Through March 31. 2546 Bancroft Wy., Berkeley. 949-833-0189.

ArtSource Wine Lounge & Cafe, Roger E. Sporting Presenting still life sporting inspired by food and Mount Diablo. Through April 24, free. 1633 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek.

ArtWorksketchbook, A Situation Room Drawings, paintings & an unexperimental installation by Ivy Mint Di and Savanna Snow. Through April 30, free. 423 Bliss St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Preview Gallery, Story Paintings: Drawings, Paintings, Prints, and Tapestries by Supaak Carswell, Hong Ma, and Joey Oliver Survey of works by exceptional Bay Area artists. Through April 11. 1001 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417, BaptisteGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center: Process & Place: The Transformative Potential of Artist Residencies Featuring work by local artists Amy Berk, Edith Hillinger, Barbara Holm, Anne Lambert, Mary Curtis Ratcliff and Sheelagh Shea, who all attended the same residency program in New Zealand. Through March 28, free. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893, BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Steeler Gallery: Transformations: Solo exhibit of Steve Gallagher Printed and hand-drawn works made with an "alchemist" process. Through April 1. 456 17th St., Ste. #308, Oakland. Slyman.org.

Cal State East Bay University Art Gallery, BFA Exhibition Opening reception March 29, 5-7 p.m. March 29-April 22. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3299, Class.CSUEastBay.edu/artgallery.

The Crucible Gallery of Art, Fired Group exhibition in which artists exhibit an ancient sculptural technique using a variety of materials. Through May 7, free. Blast: Through May 1. Crucible Building, Oakland. TheCrucible.org/gallery.

David Brower Center: The Lake Project: Photographs by David Maisel Photographs of Owens Lake, a 100 square mile body of water on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Through May 31. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Eddie Shaefer Gallery, First Hand, Hugo Norm Gallery by Five East Bay Pressers Group show featuring work by Margaret Norman, Allen Portal, Kelly Reams, Claudia Stone and Nancy Vivent. Opening reception Thursday, March 25, 6-8 p.m. Through April 29, free. 2600 Mission Bell Dr., San Pablo. ContraCosta.edu/art/art.html.

Expressions Gallery, The Modernists Featuring work by Janis Melnikova-Rosati. Through April 10. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930, ExpressionsGallery.org.

Float Center: Where Do I Go From Here? Mark Wagner, Clayton Thiel and Sallane C. Schultz combine sculpture, paintings, and conceptual art. Through April 16, free. 4058 Gallat Pl., Oakland. 510-635-1200, TheFloatCenter.com.

Gallery Estrella: The Art of Emily: A Strange Collection Exhibit features work by Emily the Strange creator Rob Reger and fellow Emily artists Buzz Parker, Brian Brower, Ricardo Ms. Turner and Justin Barry. Through March 29, free. 2012 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-5845 ex. 229.

Gunn Winery, Paintings by Jody Rice Through April 30, free. 7000 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 925-373-8289, GunnWinery.com.

Hayward Shaefer Gallery, Hayward Members Show With photography, paintings, ceramics, sculptures, greeting cards, decorative gourds, and jewelry. Through May 1, free. 22654 Main St., Hayward. 510-538-2787, HaywardArts.org.

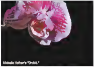
Joyce Gordon Gallery, For Dancers Feet Only: A Celebration of Process All-female exhibition and performance series, featuring music, dance, monologues, and readings. Through March 28. $5-$10 for performances. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928, JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Kala Art Institute, Hear Us, Say Us:

PICKS

Radical Botanical

Art, like horticulture (despite Dorothy Parker's quip) is led by what people think as well as by chance: it's hybridized by luck and design. The flower photographs of **Hagit Cohen**, **Chi Fang**, **Michela Hofherr** and **Hiroko To** are all informed by contemporary abstract painting — just as painting has historically been influenced by photography. Cohen's photos of flower garlands floating in creeks may suggest Pre-Raphaelite paintings of the waterborne, tragic Ophelia, but there's an ecological message beneath their somber poetry. Fang takes a more lyrical, abstract painterly view, emphasizing atmosphere, color, pattern, and movement. Hofherr uses a macro lens and extreme cropping to emphasize shape, texture, and form, while To, who also employs dark backgrounds, focuses more on the drama of plants as expressions of energy. ***Radical Botanical*** runs through April 3 at **Slate Art and Design** (4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 510-652-4085 or www.SlateArtandDesign.com. — *DeWitt Cheng*



Michelle Hofherr's "Orchid."

Discolorations

Discolorations would seem unlikely subjects to paint — especially in the seductive medium of encaustic paint, but the malleable and translucent wax medium, yielding to touch and warmth, readily suggests human flesh. Painter and printmaker **Karen Gallagher** sees scars and bruises as a fading, or permanent, record of an action or event that is intense enough to make an imprint or stain on the body, according to the gallery press release. It's a surprising declaration of intent since the paintings are delicately beautiful. No lurid purplish-greenish smudges here; just the floral motifs found in traditional embroidered brocades, traced or incised into wax, and then filled with powdered pigment. The layered works, given titles like "Black and Blue" or "Bruised Left (or Right) Side," suggest buried, overgrown scars or tattoos, or veined marble softened by time and memory, or perhaps blurred by impact. ***Discolorations*** runs through April 2 at the Bay Area Visual Art Network's newly inaugurated **Branch Gallery** (435 17th St., Oakland). 510-508-1764 or BayVAN.org. — *DC*

M&G

Various Venues: Conclusion Art la Education Month Exhibition of Student Work Through March 25. free. **Kala Art Institute: Thank God It's Thursday** Monthly event with live jazz, wine from local vintners, raffles, demonstrations, and affordable art. Last Thursday of every month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Continues through [illegible] $5. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

La Peña Cultural Center: Urban photographs in a Narrow Dimension Photographs and poetry by Bay Area artist [illegible] Pena. Through March 30. free. **Magnolia Art Exhibit** Drawings by [illegible]. Through Mar. 31. free. **[illegible]** Through March 30. free. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Los Medanos College Art Gallery: East County High School Art Teachers Exhibition Through April 15. free. 2700 East Leland Rd., Pittsburg. Info: 925-439-2181x521.

Lenoir Hog Cafe: Various Visions Three-dimensional paintings by Justin White Marinelli. Through March 28. 101 8th St., East Side, Oakland. 510-867-8822.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices: Paintings Near, Near and Far Paintings by Susanne Berkeley. Through April 16. free. **Photo Visions** Through April 16. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-7773.

North Gate Library: Marc Visions: Photographs Exhibit features historic photographs by Marc Riboud, a traveling Magnum photo agency photographer. Through May 1. free. Hearst St. at Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-643-3810.

Photolab Gallery: Dreams Intimidate, Entremés Student Photographs by Alejandro Chavez. Through April 17. free. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-644-1400. Photolaboratory.com/gallery.htm.

Pro Arts: 2 x 2 Solos: Student Thereof! Large scale paintings, sculpture and installations. Through April 9. free. **2 X 2 Solos: Ludwig Dix** Large scale installations, curated by Amanda Vilardi. Through April 9. free. 550 2nd St., Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Various Venues Gallery: Love Points in David Wadsell paintings by [illegible] and Carly Ivan Garcia. Sat., March 27, 6-10 p.m. free. 1628 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. PuebloNuevoGallery.com.

Rowan Morrison Gallery: Various Papers, Getaght Scissors, Papercuts by Ryoko Tanaka Through April 5. 330 40th St., Oakland. 510-384-5344. RowanMorrison.com.

Saint AnneSara Gallery: *Hopping and Screaming Part of Social Life Crisis: A Cinematic Journey From One Traumatic American to Student* Series curated by Anastasia Patsalos. Sat., March 27, 3-5 p.m. free. **Literary Themed Visions** Tribute to J.D. Salinger's *Franny and Zooey* features audience participation, theater, stationery, refreshments, installations, and sound. Sun., March 28, 6-9 p.m. free. 4321 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Sacred Rose Tattoo/SRT Gallery: Karma Moor Solo Show Through March 28. 1720 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-5083. SacredRoseTattoo.com.

Slate Gallery: Violence American Show features contemporary botanical photography by Hiroko To, Michela Hofherr, Chi Fang, and Hagit Cohen. Through March 31. free. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Exhibition Forum: Craig Hagemann Presenting painting, photography and collage. Through May 7. 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-0870. TownandGown.Berkeley.edu.

We Artspace: Rebirth Robyn Engel and Student: [illegible] art from Brazil and Tongan Visions. Through March 28. free. 266 40th St., Oakland. WeArtspace.com.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more SF art events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum: Assignment: Shanghai: Photographs on the Eve of Revolution Through June 27. **BAMscape** Interactive sculpture by artist and student Thom Faulders. Through Nov. 20, 2011. free. 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Cal State East Bay: All Woven! The Impact of Trains on American Visions Exhibit in the Museum of Anthropology centers on the history of trains and contributions of the transcontinental railway. Through June 11. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3000. csueastbay.edu.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology: From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collection, 300 pieces of textiles from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus Africa, South America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **Native Californian Student** This "visible storage" exhibition comprises some 500 objects from the museum's collection of native Californian baskets. Daily. Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

Institute of Visual Art: California Visual Artists: Celebrating Diversity through Gestural An ongoing group show. Daily. **Visions Art: Pet Particulars** A celebration in pets in mosaic. Daily. 3908 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-431-5800. [illegible] MosaicArt.com.

Lawrence Hall of Science: Student-run Sphere (SOS) New Anthropod exhibit featuring an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. $8-$11. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Judah L. Magnes Museum: Projections Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of judaica, documentary, and experimental films. Daily. **Berkeley Lab** Interactive installation invites visitors to create digital family visions and adventures based on their own immigration photographs, and thematic. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum: Pinball Art: Pins ART Overview of pinball-themed art from 1972-2010. Through March 31. $7.50-$15. **Student Pinball Exhibit** With 15 wood rails and 30 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early pinballs from the Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Haase, Dan Miller, and Visions Sphere collections. Tuesdays-Sundays, 2-9 p.m. $7.50, $15. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-205-6959. PacificPinball.org.

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BREAK FREE

THEN SOME OF US GET MORE INTERESTING

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THEATER & DANCE

Sal Calanni

Real Job, Real Paycheck

Perhaps the easiest form of bigotry — especially for a yokster from enlightened San Francisco — is poking fun at working-class white people. Hence the proliferation of jokes about audiences in Fresno or Modesto, or any place where you can pretend California is a Red State. Sal Calanni specializes in such humor. "If you got rid of San Francisco and Los Angeles, you would have to rename this state 'Califbama,'" Calanni grouses in the opening bit of his new live CD, *Real Job, Real Paycheck*. Recorded last year at the San Francisco Comedy Clubhouse, it's a set album for people who enjoy listening to a young codger kvetch about the world. Calanni fits that role to a T. He's cranky, gravelly voiced, and hurtle-bound, prone to throw out his shoulder while playing tennis on a Nintendo Wii (as he confesses in "Getting Old"). He's a crotchety old man trapped in the body of a dashing young man. That persona is funny enough to carry a set based entirely on Calanni's complaints about the world.

And he has a lot of them: about cyclists who don't stop at stop signs, about the woman from Modesto who accused him of being metrosexual, about being lactose intolerant, about hand jobs, about ordering at Café Gratitude, about his girlfriend's daughter talking to her peoples, about the girl with facial paralysis who sat through his whole set and wouldn't crack a smile. A lot of his jokes are pretty mean-spirited, and he likes to reverse-heckle. "I did a show last night, and the whole crowd came in costume," Calanni says at the end of a bit called "Hippies." "They came dressed as a shitty audience." He claims to get picked on a lot, and enjoys striking back — albeit at the easier targets. Cyclists, rednecks, and Café Gratitude have long been favorite whipping boys on the San Francisco comedy circuit, and Calanni doesn't have anything new to say about them. He has the reverse problem of most fledgling comedians: terrific persona, quirky punchlines, not-so-great setups. Calanni's material about his conservative family is hilarious, as are his observations about the social habits of swans. His anti-hippie rants are a little stale. But keep an eye out for him. He's got plenty of ammo. (self-released)

— *Rachel Swan*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/pp/calanni

COMEDY

Comedy Off Broadway Comedy showcase with revolving cast. Thursdays, 8 p.m., Fridays, 8 p.m. $10. Miss Pearl's Jam House, One Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-7171. MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Girl's Night Out Bay Area comedy showcase. Thu., March 25, 7:30 p.m. $15-$20. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

The UC or March Two with Doctor Y and Roy Earl Wed., March 31, 7:30 p.m., $10-$20. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

Stand-Up Comedy Night at the Layover Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. free. Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

Tom Green Fri., March 26, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., March 27, 7 & 9:30 p.m., $25-$30. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Berkeley Arts Center World Premiere of *[illegible]* Movement theater work directed by the artists of the Shotgun Arts Youth Performance Company. Includes hip-hop, theater, spoken word, modern dance, aerial dance, and a video platform. Fridays, Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., Sat., March 27, 2 p.m. Continues through March 27. $13-$25.

[illegible] Pleasado & Los Pleneros Zarzuela performances by Ascuento De Rumba y Roja, [illegible], and Los Lupeños de San Jose. Plus artists Ismael Alameda, [illegible], [illegible], Gabriel & Elias Escobar, [illegible] & Gigi Jensen, [illegible], and Samuel Stevens. Narrated by Paul Marsh. Sat., March 27, 8 p.m. $15, $18. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Merce Cunningham Dance Company Pre-performance talk March 26, 7 p.m. with MCDC Executive Director Trevor Carlson. March 26-27, 8 p.m. $30, $42, $58. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

LIVE VARIETY

La Bohème The Concert Event. Mugo Theater Company presents a multimedia concert based on Puccini's opera. Thursdays, 7 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 27. $20-$30. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The Importance of Being Earnest By Oscar Wilde, directed by Susannah Martin. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 27. Lafayette Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. 925-283-1557.

An Anonymous Story New production of Anton Chekhov's novella about an ailing revolutionary who poses as a government lackey. Adapted for the stage by Gary Graves and directed by Soren Oliver. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through March 28. $14-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

The Apple Tree Berkeley [illegible] rendition of the 1966 musical based on *The Diary of Adam and Eve* by Mark Twain. Music: [illegible]. Starting March 26. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through May 1. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West Les Waters directs the world premiere of the play written by Naomi Iizuka, commissioned by Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Through April 11. $13.50-$71. Berkeley Repertory Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949.

Handless Amy [illegible] directs this Ragged Wing Ensemble production, in which the Peasants as old folk tale called The Handless Maiden. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 27. $15-$20. Central Stage, 5221 Central Ave., Richmond.

[illegible] Mary Guzmán directs the world premiere of [illegible] tale about pop music, stardom, race, and sexuality. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 27. $12-$20. [illegible] Theatre, 3964 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-444-4400.

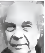
PICKS

Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West

Playwright Naomi Iizuka is evidently an academic at heart. Her new work, ***Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West***, grapples with concepts as tricky and unwieldy as its title suggests: post-colonial theory, "Otherness," voyeurism, and the semiotics of photography. It's also a gorgeous play, set in a black, angular set that represents the inside of a camera. *Strange Devices* starts off in Meiji-era Japan, where Isabel Hewlett (Kate Eastwood Norris) and her arms-dealer husband (Danny Wolohan) arrive for business and stay for sex tourism. Later on, we meet their 20th-century analogue, an art history professor who traffics in stereotypes. His fascination with two Japanese American art dealers, Kiku (Teresa Avia Lim) and Hiro (Johnny Wu), prove to be his undoing. Iizuka weaves these stories together to show the perpetuation of an "Orientalist" mindset, from the olden days to contemporary academia. To accord with the theme, director Les Waters has the actors play multiple roles, repeat each other's lines, and pose in sepia-toned photographs. Set designer Mimi Lien and video artist Leah Gelpe give the play a painterly composition, while sound designer Bray Poor punctuates scenes with a sharp flash and the click of a camera shutter. In one scene, the video screens show giant close-ups of tattooed bodies making love. It's sexy, but also incredibly disorienting, given the thesis of the play: We're all rendered voyeurs here. Through April 11 at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org. — *R.S.*

An Anonymous Story

If Orlov is not a "typical" Chekhov character, then it's obvious the playwright had little faith in the hearts of men. He's ungenerous and impotent, with a huge piggybank and mean-spirited sense of humor. Jordan Winer plays this 19th-century Russian brat in a new Central Works stage adaptation, written by Gary Graves and directed by Soren Oliver. He's an interesting choice for the part, small in stature but malevolent, nonetheless. Equally fascinating is Cat Thompson, the tall steely redhead who plays Orlov's abused mistress, Zinaida. She spends much of the play jockeying for power, both with her master and a jealous maid (Sandra Schlechter), who keeps stealing her stuff. Graves and Oliver toggle the many themes of this play — class struggle, reformist political ideals, misogyny, failed relationships, voyeurism — and wind up with a story that falls neatly into place. They use symbolic shorthand: Zinaida's hair slips from its bobby pins as her relationship falls apart, while Orlov and his friend Gruzin (Dennis Markham) viciously chomp on sandwiches in almost every scene. Originally a novella, ***An Anonymous Story*** is a tough one to stage, not least because it's narrated by an "anonymous" political spy (Richard Frederick) disguised as a footman. Despite all the complexity, this version is riveting. Through March 28 at **Berkeley City Club** (2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley). $14-$25. CentralWorks.org. — *R.S.*



Merce Cunningham

Merce Cunningham Dance Company

Dance is the most ephemeral of the arts, and **Merce Cunningham Dance Company** is the most fleeting, by its nature. Before Cunningham passed away last year at age ninety, the company announced it would perform for only two years after his death. The farewell tour stops at **Zellerbach Hall** (Bancroft Way and Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) this weekend for two performances of the evening-length *Nearly Ninety*, Cunningham's final contribution to the modern-dance canon. Leaping, balancing, looping, and changing direction in solos, pairs, and trios, the dancers chase an electrifying score by Sonic Youth, Led Zeppelin bassist John Paul Jones, and composer Takehisa Kosugi. Like all of Cunningham's work, his last piece is inventive, challenging, and inimitable. Catch it while you can. A talk with the company's executive director Trevor Carlson precedes the Friday show at 7 p.m. Friday Mar. 26 and Saturday Mar. 27, 8 p.m., $30-$58. 510-642-9988 or CalPerfs.Berkeley.edu. — *Claudia Bauer*

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BEHIND THAT AWKWARD FACE

Local improv group brings discipline to the form.

By Rachel Swan

If there is one area in which Alan Coyne excels, it's self-transformation. Not the spiritual kind, but the literal kind. During a ninety-minute improv performance last Saturday, Coyne inhabited roughly a dozen different characters — among them a Russian princess, a lecherous mad scientist, the god Thor, a pregnant "first wife" in a polygamous marriage, a fascist boss, a tattletale kid, and an old codger reminiscing about the county fair. Coyne never tells us who he is at a given moment. We have to watch him interact with the other actors onstage and gradually divine what's happening. That's exhausting work for an audience. But the payoff is terrific.

A former UC Berkeley English major with a passing interest in dramatic arts, Coyne is the most arresting performer in Awkward Face Improv Troupe, a twelve-member ensemble berthed from Oakland's Pan Theater. The group — or various iterations thereof — performs every Saturday night and some Friday nights, at a small black box downtown. Also home to a psychic, a nursing class, and an assortment of bad bands, the building presents itself as an unlikely space for theater — let alone an elaborate game of "let's play pretend." But sparseness is part of the Pan Theater aesthetic. The actors come dressed in street clothes; the stage has no curtains or set pieces; audience members sit in uncomfortable folding chairs. It's an exercise in collective imagineering.

That setup puts a huge burden on Awkward Face, not just to ensure that we're all on the same page, but to create sketches with narrative coherence, some kind of arc, and, when possible, an "a-ha" moment at the end. Half of the actors showed up for last Saturday's performance, which is typical, said McCal. It's also an ideal number for sake of delegating roles and arranging things on the fly. The actors were a mixed bag. Coyne stood out most, with his small, rubbery body and coke bottle glasses. He has a Buster Keaton-ish ability to over-pronounce every body movement. He'll pretend to chew cotton candy by twisting and elongating his entire jaw. He'll trudge into a scene eight-and-a-half months pregnant, his body wracked by the weight of an imaginary fetus.

Show Details

Awkward Face performs Friday, Mar. 26, and every Saturday at Pan Theater (2135 Broadway, Oakland), 9 p.m. $10-$12. PanTheater.com

Second in line that night were Will McNaull and Max McCal, who shared an exceptionally funny scene in which a struggling jazz pianist (McNaull) looked on while his slacker roommate (McCal) indulged in some kind of nefarious get-rich-quick scheme. Veteran troupe member Virginia Harrington was a little more methodical, and seemed more inclined to insert herself into a scene than invent one. Mary Mattingly, who is soft-spoken and willowy offstage, excelled at playing hunchback geriatrics and pliant young women. Founding member David Alger got less stage time than anyone else, since he had to work the lights, too. He's apparently the glue that holds everything together.

Virginia Harrington and Alan Coyne

The actors did a series of by-the-book improv games to warm the audience up, starting with "Freeze." That's about as paint-by-numbers as you get in improv: Two people start a scene by quickly creating some kind of character relationship and conflict. Then another person infiltrates, telling them both to freeze. The infiltrator tags one actor out, assumes the same physical position as that actor, and starts a new scene. That game got the ball rolling. Later they upped the ante with "alphabet," which is more of a brain strain. Two actors do a scene in which all lines start with sequential letters of the alphabet. In another game Harrington and Mattingly had to choose their lines from scraps of paper in a box. The scraps don't exactly encourage coherence (sample lines: "Obummer is president" "I love babies, but I can never finish a whole one"). They made do with a sketch about a dysfunctional lesbian relationship. One woman (Harrington) worships a duck-god and Obama. The other (Mattingly) is canoodling with their midwife.

Some games — like "Musicals," in which two actors spontaneously burst into song at the audience's behest — seem better in conception than execution. Others are sure-fire hits. Saturday's highlight was "Who Am I?" a weird guessing game that required one actor (McNaull) to leave the room, while two others (Coyne and McCal) devised a scene based on audience suggestions. Upon reentering, McNaull had to guess his identity (we chose Henry David Thoreau), his locale (Pizza Hut), and his apparel (neon sunglasses) by sussing out clues from the other actors. It's harder than it sounds.

Improv is perhaps the riskiest form of theater in that it requires so much work from both the actors and the audience. Cast members have to think quickly, read body language, script write in their heads, quip without setups, change personalities on a dime, and end a sketch before it gets boring. Audience members have to follow an ever-shifting storyline, wherein each scene provides fresh disorientation. There were, indeed, several moments on Saturday when sketches devolved into pure absurdism (i.e. bubbles falling from the sky, or supernatural creatures devouring Rhode Island) or had too many plot twists. But mostly Awkward Face achieved a rhythm that's virtually unattainable in a free-associative art verse. Chalk it up to chemistry or the talents of a few ultra malleable improvisers. They've taken liberties with the form, while turning it into a discipline. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/at/awkward

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Made possible, in part, by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, and The Howard Gilman Foundation.

Sightlines: Fri, Mar 26, 7 pm, pre-performance talk with MCDC [illegible]

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LECTURES & LIT

Blam! Pow!

Steve Englehart makes superheroes speak

Imagine watching a Hollywood blockbuster and suddenly realizing that — although you weren't mentioned in the credits, much less paid — you wrote its plot and created its characters. Its actors look exactly like those men and women you dreamed up, right down to their hairstyles and the shapes of their chins.

That's what happened to **Steve Englehart.** At Emeryville's AMC Theatre, he sat down to watch *The Dark Knight* — and got the shock of his life.

As the longtime lead writer for DC Comics, which is owned by Warner Bros., Englehart had revamped the company's *Batman* and *Superman* series, among others. The 1989 *Batman* film starring Michael Keaton was based on Englehart's work; during production, Englehart was hired to assist. After the 2005 release of *Batman Begins*, DC asked Englehart to write twelve more comic books featuring the caped crusader. He did — but then Marshall Rogers, the popular artist who had illustrated Englehart's *Batman* books for years, died suddenly of a heart attack after completing the seventh.

Steve Englehart.

"When Marshall died, it was a big deal in comic-book fandom," said Englehart. "I was getting calls from *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Time* magazine. Everyone wanted to know what I was going to do with my unfinished series." Other artists clamored to fill Rogers' shoes. Through the grapevine, Englehart learned to his surprise that DC was going to chuck the series — and in so doing, chuck him.

"I thought, 'What the hell? How stupid of them, how bitchy — but not totally out of character.'" Never to appear in book form, his last few *Batman* manuscripts became DC property, which also was Warner Bros. property.

Flash forward to that day in Emeryville. "I thought, 'There it is! There's my unpublished story on the screen.'" Although he estimates that 70 percent of *The Dark Knight* is based on his series, *The Dark Detective*, Englehart decided not to sue: Too many other writers had tried and failed. Because mainstream comic books are created on a work-for-hire basis, "we signed away our rights to what we wrote," said the Oakland author, who will be at **Moe's Books** (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Wednesday, March 31.

Englehart, who has also written for the gaming industry, is now penning a series of novels featuring Max August, an immortal "alchemist with a gun" who served in the Vietnam War and stopped aging in 1985. In his latest, *The Long Man*, Max uses magic to defend a hot unreserved against an evil cabal.

"In all the traditional stories about immortals, these guys are five hundred years old and hung out with Napoleon," said Englehart. "I thought it would be interesting to write about an immortal who, comparatively speaking, was just starting out." And while old-school immortals "tend to drop out of sight every twenty years and then pop up with new identities, that's not so easy in post-9/11 America, where they really are reading your e-mails and recording your telephone calls." 7:30 p.m., free. MoesBooks.com

—Anneli Rufus

To share this story, type: ebx.by.cr/batman

LECTURES

Are We Achieving a Sustainable Future? The Role of Green Chemistry Public lecture and sustainability dialogue led by Dr. Robert Peoples, director of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute. Held in Room 105 of Stanley Hall. Thu., March 25, 5:30 p.m., free. Stanley Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Corazón Del Jaguar (Heart of Yaxe) Film screening and discussion of Alberto Cortes' film about Zapotecas. Fri., March 26, 7 p.m., free. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629.

Film Screening: The Seed Film drawn on Ecuadorian orphan directed by Joshua Bee Alafia. Wed., March 31, 7:30 p.m., $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

If Not Bill Maher, Then What? Panel discussion featuring Jeff Hunt, Brock Keeling, Michael Maeroz, and Robin Sloan. Wed., March 24, 6:30 p.m., $7-$12, $20. Commonwealth Club Office, 595 Market St., San Francisco. 415-597-6712.

Innovation, Fresh Thinking for the Ideas Economy Business workshops sponsored by *The Economist*. Through March 24, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7989. Haas.berkeley.edu.

Making Ideas Real: A Methodology Structured Methodology for Teaching The Full Diversity of Learners Seminar for parents and educators led by David Berg. Sat., March 27, 9 a.m.-noon, free. Black Pine Circle School, 2027 Seventh St., Berkeley. 510-845-0878.

Math and Science: What's The Big Deal? Workshop explores the role of math and science in education. For info, call 510-761-5736, or visit PrayerfulParents.com. Thu., March 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m., $25. Omega House, 1448 14th St., Oakland.

Screening of *The Greater Circulation* by Antero Alli. Director will appear in person. Wed., March 24, 7:30 p.m., $5. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818. HumanistHall.net.

Sunaura Taylor Artist, writer, and activist discusses her ongoing study of human-animal relationships. Part of the Jordan-organized Critical Animal Studies Film and Artist Lecture Series. Thu., March 25, 7:10 p.m., free. California College of the Arts, 5212 Broadway, Oakland. 510-594-3613. www.cca.edu.

Vita Dunmore: Works / Andrew Ambition Public lecture sponsored by the Technology and Society Lecture Series. Wed., March 31, 7:30-8:30 p.m., free. Lisser Hall Theatre, Mills College, Oakland. Mills.edu.

LITERARY EVENTS

Allen Lord Presentation by the assistant editor of *Paradise Magazine*. Sat., March 27, 2-4 p.m., free. Mountain Mike's Pizza, 35760 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. 510-489-8179.

Ashton Jacoby Discussing his poetry, translations, and scholarship. Tue., March 30, 5:30-7 p.m., free. Mills Hall Living Room, Mills College, Oakland. 510-430-2255. www.mills.edu.

Anastasia Hobbet Discussing *Small Kingdoms*. Thu., March 25, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

California of Old Past Digital storytelling stories allows people to record personal testimonials. Daily, free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

Hamasi M. Koie in Conversation with Gillian Hart Discussing *Performing South Africa's Truth Commission: Stages of Transition*. Wed., March 31, 5:30-7 p.m., free. University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley. 510-642-4247. UCPress.edu.

Indu Sundaresan Discussing *Shadow Princess*. Tue., March 30, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. greatgoodplacebooks.com.

Jessica Anthony Reading from *The Convalescent*. Sat., March 27, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1301. PegasusBookstore.com.

PICKS

Anastasia Hobbet

Having lived in Kuwait for five years and traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, **Anastasia Hobbet** revisits the region in her novel *Small Kingdoms*, which follows the reactions of five people from various religious, class, and national backgrounds as they learn that a teenage worker is being brutally abused. Meet Hobbet at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Mar. 25, 7:30 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com — *Anneli Rufus*

Anastasia Hobbet

Maria Finn

Broken-hearted by her husband's infidelity, **Maria Finn** sought solace in tango lessons. Through these she learned an unexpected set of new skills, including how to follow, how to lead, and how to discern her true desires. As it happened, her true desires took her to Buenos Aires. Finn discusses her memoir *Hold Me Tight and Tango Me Home* at **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Thursday, Mar. 25, 7 p.m., free. BooksInc.net — *A.R.*

Indu Sundaresan

Returning to the royal family dynasty she addressed in *The Twentieth Wife* and *The Feast of Roses*, **Indu Sundaresan** reads from her latest novel of 16th-century Islamic aristocracy, *Shadow Princess*, at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland) on Tuesday, Mar. 30. In this book, a Mughal emperor's two daughters vie for control of their father's harem in the shadow of the Taj Mahal. 7 p.m., free. GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com — *A.R.*

Indu Sundaresan.

Arthur Phillips

Child actor, entrepreneur, and five-time *Jeopardy!* champion **Arthur Phillips** is also an award-winning novelist. At **Pegasus** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Monday, Mar. 29, the author of *Prague*, *Angelica*, and *The Egyptologist* discusses his fourth book *The Song Is You*, in which a sad man finds new hope via music and social networking. 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus.Indiebound.com — *A.R.*

L&L

John Gossage Discussing My Hollo Sims Wed., March 31, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Kristen Worth Discussing Baby Boot Camp. Thu., March 25, 4 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210. greatgoodplace.indiebound.com/

Life of Crime Publication Party and Reading Tue., March 30, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087.

Maria Finn Discussing Hold Me Tight and Tango Me Home. Thu., March 25, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Queer Book Club Call Dave Robbins at 510-833-2542 for more info. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park Ave., Oakland.

Alameda Voices, One Vision Poetry reading to celebrate Cesar Chavez Day featuring San Francisco Poet Laureate Diane di Prima, Berkeley Poet Laureate Alameda Poet Laureate Mary Rudge, Geri Digiorno, and Al Young. Sun., March 28, 1-5:30 p.m., $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Music of the World/La Palabra Musical With MusicCon. Fourth and Second Sunday of every month, 3:30 p.m., free. Rebecca's Books, 3268 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-852-4768. www.rebeccasbooks.biz/

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Oakland Reads March Sign up for this program and read the latest March via e-mail, or chat about March in discussion forums. To participate visit OaklandLibrary.org. Daily.

Pam Marsh Discussing Golden Gate Gardening. Sat., March 27, 6 p.m., free. Ira Berkeley's Library and Garden Arts, 2910 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-104-8227.

Poetry Flash Presents Laurel Ann Bogen & Susan Kelly-DeWitt Thu., March 25, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087.

Poetry Flash Presents Laurel Bogen & Susan Kelly-DeWitt Thu., March 25, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087.

RIP L, The Search for the Perfect Woman With journalist Arthur Allen. Fri., March 26, 7-9 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210. greatgoodplace.indiebound.com/

Sharing March We Love Class or Remote titles that inspired them. Led by Cyndi Clymer. Last Wednesday of every month, 12:30 p.m., $5 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley, 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

Steve Englehart Wed., March 31, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087.

Yvonne Pillai Discussing The Vinyl Princess. Thu., March 25, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210. greatgoodplace.indiebound.com/

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Foreclosure Intervention Workshop Housing counselors and attorneys provide guidance for tenants and homeowners. Sat., March 21, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., free. Emeryville Senior Center, 4321 Salem St., Emeryville, 510-596-3730. www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/senior-center/

Jean Quan for Oakland Mayor Campaign Launch Rally With assemblymembers Sandré Swanson and Mary Hayashi, neighborhood leaders, and community members; plus music by the Smooth Sisters and Town Bizz. Sat., March 21, 12-4 p.m., free. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland, 510-451-5818. JeanQuan.net.

Older People United For people over 18. Fourth and Second Thursday of every month, 1:30 p.m., free. Berkeley Gray Panthers Office, 1433 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-548-9696.

Tax Experts for Small Proceeds Sat., March 21, 4 p.m., free. Newark Library, 6300 Civic Terrace Ave., Newark, 510-795-2627.

SPOKEN WORD

Café Poetry Featured readers and an open mic. Richard Moran, aka Paradise Freejahlove, and Kim Allen host alternating sessions. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., donations requested. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Hella Skee A night of poetry and spoken word. Thursdays, 6:30-11:30 p.m., donations requested. EastSide Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629.

Thursday at Word Beat A weekly spoken-word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 21, free. AngelFire.com/poetry/wordbeat. Mediterraneum Caffe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1128.

Verbum Word Art Open-Mic Night Poets, storytellers, musicians, and all other artists are invited to share their work. Arrive early to sign up. Second and Fourth Friday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. VerbumWordArt.com. Zocalo Coffeehouse, 645 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, 510-569-0197. ZocaloCoffeehouse.com. ■

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BODY & SOUL

The Joy of Cooking

Eating is as much for the spirit as for the flesh, says vegan chef Barry Schenker

Barry Schenker

When **Barry Schenker** first gave up meat in the 1980s, he was an avid marathon runner — and everyone asked him whether he was eating enough protein to survive, much less compete. During his twenty years as a chiropractor, they asked him the same question. When he became a vegan, they added another one: *Do you get enough calcium?*

"In this country, most people get twice as much protein as they really need," Schenker asserted. As for calcium, it's in green vegetables and beans, according to the Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine, an advocacy group that recommends a plant-based diet and of which Schenker and his vegan anesthesiologist wife Dana Rehman are outspoken members.

Answering those too-familiar questions — "and realizing that we can live healthier lives without killing other animals" — spurred a career switch. Enrolling in courses at San Francisco's California Culinary Academy, Schenker became a chef, then "took a year off and traveled around the world to absorb other cultures through their food" and to savor the seasonality of local produce.

"I remember one week in Italy when I ate porcini mushrooms at every meal. I couldn't get enough of them." There and elsewhere, he discovered, food was not just physical sustenance, but social and spiritual sustenance as well.

"It was inspiring to see the joy that people took in shopping, cooking, eating," said Schenker. "It was very important for me to see how people can have a good time drinking wine at one in the afternoon and how they can be okay about taking naps after meals."

It was a far cry from the typical American household in which each member eats separately, "disconnected from the sources of the land and from each other." Three years ago, Schenker and Rehman began hosting monthly Marketplace Dinners at the **Hillside Club** (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley), where participants spend up to five hours co-creating seven-course vegan gourmet meals from fresh, seasonal ingredients. Each participant performs part of the prep work while Schenker and Rehman supervise, focusing on techniques rather than recipes. It's less a cooking class than a celebration of what Schenker calls "the beneficial qualities of eating together — the solidarity and camaraderie that can develop when you cook and eat together."

Set for Sunday, March 28, the next dinner includes red-quinoa risotto, sautéed broccolini with chili oil, an arugula/marinated peach/shaved-fennel salad, and more. It's based on the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine's four food groups: grains, legumes, fruits, and vegetables.

"If someone comes away from this having learned about a new vegetable or grain that they've never tried before" — or tried before but never realized they could like — "then I've done my job," said Schenker. 4 p.m., $25-$30. MarketplaceDinners.org

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, go to: ebx.hy.pr/joyofcooking

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AIDS Project of the East Bay The Alameda County organization provides free HIV counseling and testing, support groups, case management services, assistance with benefits, transportation, and emergency housing, emergency food [illegible], visit more. Volunteer opportunities available. Daily. AIDS Project of the East Bay, 1710 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-7979, APEB.org.

Community Healing Night With workshops and circles by [illegible]. Refreshments [illegible]. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. [illegible] Cultural Works, [illegible] Ave., Alameda. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

Diabetes Fair Information and resources for early diabetes detection and prevention. Call 510-[illegible] for more info or to RSVP. Thu., March 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Carlton Plaza of San Leandro, [illegible] East 14th St., San Leandro.

In Our Own Stress, with Carol Gilligan, Ph.D. Lecture presented by the Psychotherapy Institute. Call 510-548-2250 ex 107 for more info. Sat., March 27, 2-4 p.m. $20-$100. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction [illegible] Eight-week session [illegible] led by [illegible]. For info, visit [illegible]. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Continues through March 25. $300. Acupressure Institute, 1533 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Parkinson's Disease Stem Cell Meeting Lecture and presentation by [illegible] Sun., March 28, 2:30-5 p.m., free. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. [illegible]

Release Stress, Raise Consciousness, Stress Vitality Interactive workshop led by [illegible] using [illegible] System. For info, call 541-[illegible] or visit [illegible].com. Sat., March 27, 1-5 p.m. $25. Temple Community Center, [illegible] Cleveland Rd., Pleasant Hill.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Finding the Heart of Pilgrimage Eight-week support group. Each person chooses a pilgrimage. Call [illegible], 510-[illegible] or visit [illegible].com. Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. Continues through April 27. $250 for 8 weeks. Acupressure Institute, 1533 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

The Radical Potential of Psychotherapy Morning talk and afternoon workshop with Carol Gilligan. For additional info visit the Psychotherapy Institute at 510-548-2250 or [illegible]. March 27, 9 a.m.-noon. $75-$95. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Adult Buddha Education An ongoing support group. Registration required. Call 510-[illegible] for info [illegible]. Fourth Thursday of every month, 3-5:30 p.m. East Bay, various locations, Emeryville.

Intergenerational Story Circle [illegible] Roles in a Changing World Monthly event as a complement of the Berkeley Fellowship [illegible] History Project. Sun., March 28, 12:30-1:45 p.m., free. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. [illegible]

Medicine Buddha Retreat led by Lama Palzang and Pema Gellek. March 26-28. $140-$200. Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley.

Passover Celebration for Young Children [illegible] a gathering for kids ages five and under. RSVP required. Sat., March 27, 10:30 a.m.-noon, free. Jewish Gateways, 410 Liberty St., El Cerrito.

[illegible] Meditation for [illegible] Half-day workshop with instructor [illegible]. Sat., March 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $45. Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley.

YOGA & BODYWORK

[illegible] Yoga Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through May 11. [illegible]. Piedmont Yoga Studio, 3966 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

Healing Yoga for Cancer Survivors Classes led by yoga instructor and cancer survivor [illegible]. Starting March 26. Fridays, 12:30-1:45 p.m. Continues through April 30. 5 classes for $38. Scholarships available. Yoga in the Middle, [illegible], Castro Valley. YogaintheMiddle.com.

PICKS

Bicycling Workshop

Learn how to cycle safely at a women-only **Bike Traffic Skills 101 workshop** at the **Title Nine Business Office** (4013 Doyle St., Emeryville) on Thursday, Mar. 25. Offered by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, the class will be taught by League of American Bicyclists certified cycling instructors Diane Serafini and Bonnie Wehmann. Participants need not bring bikes. 6 p.m., free. EBBC.org — *Anneli Rufus*

Self-Worth Kundalini Yoga Workshop

Overcome low self-esteem with a **Self-Worth Kundalini Yoga weekend workshop** at the **Hargobind Sadan Ashram** (412 Sybil Ave., San Leandro) from Friday, Mar. 26 through Sunday, Mar. 28. Hosted by author/yogi Sat Santokh Singh, the workshop focuses on how to use yoga, chanting, deep relaxation, and guided imagery as tools for self-discovery. 7 p.m. Friday through 4 p.m. Sunday. $105 (includes room and board). SatSantokh.com — *A.R.*

Sahaja Meditation Session

Hailed as a strategy for ending addiction and improving communication skills, Sahaja meditation begins with the statement, "Let me feel the peace within," then continues with the affirmation, "I forgive everyone and I forgive myself." Learn the simple steps at an **introductory session** at the **Central Park/Lake Elizabeth Visitor Center** (40000 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont) on Saturday, Mar. 27. 11 a.m., free. SFBayMeditation.org — *A.R.*

Dzogchen Open House

Chögyal Namkhai Norbu.

Sometimes translated as "Great Perfection," the state of awareness known as Dzogchen is believed by many Tibetan Buddhists to be the finest and surest path to enlightenment. Inspired by the teachings of Master Chögyal Namkhai Norbu, the local Dzogchen community hosts an **open house and newcomers' tea** at its **Dondrub Ling Center** (2748 Adeline St., Suite D, Berkeley) on Sunday, Mar. 28. 5 p.m., free. DzogchenCommunityWest.org — *A.R.*

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AQUARIUM AGE

THE TIMES THEY'RE GONNA CHANGE

For the week of March 24-30, 2010

By Ralfee Finn

Several realities converge this week, so don't be surprised if you feel on the verge of being overwhelmed. Not only are we still in the midst of a seasonal shift, accommodating different daylight hours and adapting to new daily routines, but we are also completing our adjustment to Mars Direct, which means we can finally relinquish the need to finish every postponed project immediately. But that's not the entire story: the core of this week's intensity isn't only about transitions occurring in present time. This week is also a threshold between what was and what will be. For as this and the next few weeks unfold, we begin several months of major planetary interactions, all of which tilt the axis of daily life, personal and collective, in a new and generally unforeseen direction. And although these changes still lie in the future, sensitive nervous systems can already feel the gravitational pull. So don't be surprised if you or someone close to you seems inappropriately emotional. What at first glance may seem like an extreme reaction may actually be in tune with the deeper undercurrents of change that lie ahead.

This week: Several interactions coalesce to make it the week of living ambitiously. The ongoing Sun/Mars trine continues to provide the desire and determination to overcome any obstacles to success, no matter how difficult or dangerous. Saturn sextiles Mars, supporting these industrious endeavors, but Saturn also opposes the Sun, which could inhibit some of the Sun's vibrant creativity. Unfortunately, this Sun/Saturn opposition collides with a Sun/Pluto square, a configuration that could encourage choosing ruthless means as a way of achieving your goals. Be patient, be kind, and don't exert undue pressure on yourself or those you love to get the job done at any cost. In the long run, the results won't be worth squandering your reputation or good will.

The coming weeks: On April 26, we will experience the fourth Saturn/Uranus opposition, and the last one in this series to occur in the Mutable Signs of Virgo and Pisces. This opposition began in the fall of 2008 with the financial crisis. No regulations have been put in place to ensure that the same scenario won't repeat itself, which means we're not out of the woods yet. I'm not predicting another crash; I'm simply noting that we haven't penetrated the causal level of our current condition.

Jupiter joins this opposition in May, as it moves into a conjunction with Uranus that is exact on June 10 at Zero Aries. But before that occurs, there is an exact Jupiter/Saturn opposition on May 23. And on May 27, Uranus moves into Aries. But that's not all. On July 26, the fifth and final Saturn/Uranus opposition occurs, also at Zero Aries. This litany of planetary events is as complex as it sounds, and over the coming weeks, this column will probe the potential meaning of all these interactions in depth. I'm only sharing the details this week to affirm what many are already feeling. Profound changes lie ahead.

As you ponder the future, remember that each of us plays a role in what happens next. We can dread the coming changes and mire ourselves in fear and ignorance. Or we can be pro-active, and continue to search for innovative solutions to our shared situation.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that, too.

ARIES Rise to the challenge and be determined to channel your creativity into areas in need of rehabilitation. Your willingness to examine and release old attitudes will make it easier to maintain a positive outlook.

TAURUS Don't be afraid to ask for what you need. Not every desire will be satisfied, but the clarity of knowing what you want and why will have a positive effect.

GEMINI Try not to say more than necessary, but don't get too mad at yourself if your reticence fails. Sometimes, some things just need to be said aloud.

CANCER Opportunities for success continue, but making the most of them may require you to release a previously tried and true position. Opt for a new approach, and watch the positive chain reaction.

LEO Allow your natural charisma to shine brightly — be your charming, generous self. But remember, the best leaders inspire by example.

VIRGO Worrying about the outcome will only exacerbate your stress. Do everything you can to strengthen your position, then let go and allow the situation to unfold.

LIBRA The emphasis is still on relationships of all types, but this week the focus is on friendship. Contemplate what you value most in a friend and then strive to embody those qualities.

SCORPIO Career opportunities offer the potential to be seen at your best. Be clear, direct, and intentional, and you'll not only make a positive impression but also be recognized for your talents.

SAGITTARIUS You must decide: Be miserable about your situation or seek gratitude as a remedy for despair. Sounds like a no-brainer, but choosing may be more complicated than you think.

CAPRICORN Your inclination is to retreat until you can replenish your reserves. Trust your intuition and give yourself time to relax, rest, and restore your naturally calm demeanor.

AQUARIUS You're still clarifying your perspective on several relationships, personal and professional. If you take your time and carefully work through the facts, you'll arrive at a fair and accurate assessment.

PISCES While your workload is increasing, so is your salary, and that is a good enough reason to say "yes." Don't worry, you won't be an indentured servant forever. You're just making the best of an opportunity. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/cr/aquarium

For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9254, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Ralfee Finn.

Mind, Body, Spirit

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The vegan charcuterie turns heads

Chris Duffey

YOU AND ME AND EVERYONE WE KNOW

Organic restaurant in Berkeley's Brower Center serves real bacon faux fondue and up-front ideology

By Anneli Rufus

Watching us snicker with pleasure as we ate Gather's signature dish, the dressed-up couple at the next table asked their server what it was. Called the vegan "charcuterie," it comes on a wooden plank. The server recited its five separate glories with the solemn specificity of a Bible student or a royal messenger: Chickpea panisse — that is, fried chickpea-flour cake — with almond-pepper purée and grilled-scallion salsa. Beet tartare — that is, raw red, pink, and golden beets chopped and reconfigured — with horseradish almond purée and arugula blossoms. Baby-potato-and-celeriac salad with olive sauce and Sangre de Toro bean — that is, Mexican "bull's-blood" bean — purée. Braised-mushroom bruschetta with creamy leek "fondue." Roasted baby Purple Haze carrots — that is, purple outside and flame-orange within — with cashew-nut paté, green-garlic confit, pea shoots, and young garden greens.

Drinking it, the couple giggled as they watched the server walk away. "I hope you memorized all that," said the woman in mock stern-teacher mode. The man tittered but twitchily, as if truly afraid he might be quizzed. This is Berkeley, after all.

Gather is like the hot chick who knows she's hot. And in Berkeley this year, what's hot is a seasonal, sustainable, organic, half-meatless menu created by executive chef Sean Baker, who worked as a sous-chef at San Francisco's Millennium Restaurant before elevating Santa Cruz's Gabriella Café to Zagat status. What's hot is having a chalkboard on the wall listing "this week's farms." What's hot is being owned by two environmental activists and being outfitted with salvaged goods such as tables made from a recycled water tank and high-school bleachers, lighting fixtures made from empty vodka bottles, and seats made from recycled leather belts. What's hot is being lodged in Berkeley's greenest building, the David Brower Center. What's hot is having an organic cocktail bar that spins out basil-acai gimlets and cucumber spajitos. What's hot is having not only tables — lots of them, occupying nearly every available inch of floorspace — but also counter service, as if this was a truck stop. Open for dinner since December and lunch since early March, with breakfast service beginning next month, Gather has and is all that — and the result is part popular restaurant, part political statement.

Before opening Gather, co-owners Eric Fenster and Ari Derfel had already amassed the kind of cred that would stand them in good stead here. Together they founded Back to Earth, an organic catering and outdoor-adventures nonprofit. At the company's web site, Derfel — who made headlines in 2007 for saving a year's worth of his trash to reveal the magnitude of modern wastefulness — rails against "capitalism turned fascism" while praising not only resistance to US imperialism but also "revolution, and a return of the world to all of us from the few who want to be kings at our expense."

Come for the solidarity, stay for the forbidden-black rice squid. Practicing what he calls "full root-to-shoot cooking, because using the whole vegetable is just as important as using the whole animal when we're talking about sustainability," Chef Baker turns out wildly original dishes that beam back at you like perfect little paintings. At first sight, many of them provoke double-takes. A huge, glistening, dark-green pyramid turns out to be a satisfyingly velvety Lacinato kale salad with celery root, pine nuts, Spigarello-broccoli flowers, and Parmesan cheese. The big white savory slab sandwiched between two crunchy sheets of levain bread turns out to be baked Bellwether Farms herbed ricotta with purple *tardivo* radicchio and nutty, tomatoey, garlicky, cinnabar-red Catalonian *romesco* sauce. Deep-fried, polenta-dipped oyster mushrooms taste remarkably like real oysters, especially when dunked with faux "ranch" dressing. The biscotti resting beside a cheesecakey wheel of pistachio-brittle *semifreddo* have a kooky country taste because they're made of corn. Calder-esque fried cardoons stand nearly vertical. A pig-leg soup contains *kamut* and the Italian heirloom green called *minutina*. In dish after dish, flavor and texture and color combinations detonate across all five senses with a cadence that declares: *This is no random accident. Love me? I knew you would.*

Yet it's not as easy as it should be, because Gather is so jam-packed with so many tables crammed together as if to force the creation of community — as if simply arriving here implies that we're all friends who relish rubbing elbows and don't mind our neighbors hearing every word we say. Our table out-spanned my midsize shoulders by just four inches on either side. Had I flung out my arms, I would have stroked the hair of strangers. Setting our purses between us so as to produce virtual boundaries, the stranger at the next table and I tensely watched their handles intertwine.

Meanwhile, we reveled in attentive service and exulted in the soufflé-smoothness of seared fava leaf-chickpea cake, a vegan gluten-free wedge against a reef of baby artichokes, hearty Vallarta beans, tiny young frisée, aromatic caramelized fennel, and smoky-sweet rosemary vinaigrette. Braised leeks, fresh thyme, Bloomsdale spinach, and golden Fontina cheese gilded our wild mushroom pizza, whose buttery-tasting thin crust bore burned-black bubbles that somehow enhanced its made-for-you urgency, as did hedgehog mushrooms and chanterelles from the Oakland hills.

We wanted entire bowls of every component of the vegan "charcuterie." Its baby potatoes were almost not-quite-crunchy, just this side of underdone: *no random accident.* Its purple carrots tasted seductively of licorice.

It was early on a weekday evening, yet a line had formed. The thing about hot chicks who know they're hot is that everyone wants them.

A woman at a nearby table boomed, "My nine-year-old knows about cap-and-trade." Her companion, thumbing through a copy of Anna Lappé's *Diet for a Hot Planet*, mentioned a friend. "He's in Mexico," she declared, looking right and left, "doing — you know — social justice stuff." ■

To share this story go to: ebx.by/gather

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Sample Menu

Vegan "Charcuterie"	$14
Polenta-Encrusted Mushrooms	$11
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Pistachio Brittle Semifreddo	$7

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly, as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $ = up to $10 per person. $$ = $10–$25. $$$ = $25–$50. $$$$ = more than $50.

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Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cafe 1401 1401 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-9801. (American/Southeast Asian/Cajun/Creole/Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches) $$

Dux Luang 1100 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-8088. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Solano Taqueria 1681 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-1691. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Oasis Village 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-2785. (Chinese) $–$$

Ice 7068 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-6954. (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Jerusalem & Soldiers Kitchen 1861 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-7666. (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable) $

Nizam Poona 1000 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-2519. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Kirin 1767 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1677. (Chinese) $$

Lao-Thai Kitchen 1400 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-558-3076. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Seafood) $

Meal Ticket 1235 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-6325. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $–$$

Red Fern 1500 [illegible], Albany, 510-[illegible]. (French/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine) $$–$$$

Rendez-Vous 1111 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-5[illegible]. (French) $$

Oaxa 1820 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-254. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Solano Gourmet 1891 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-8282. (Deli/Middle Eastern) $

Uno No Cafe 1131 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-0662. (Japanese) $$

Taqueria Talavera 1981 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-8585. (Mexican) $

Thep Huaree 877 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-7000. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Vanessa's Bistro 1715 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-8300. (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950. (Pizza) $–$$

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ANTIOCH, PITTSBURG & BRENTWOOD

House & Barbecue House 5411 Lone Tree Way #110, Brentwood, 925-308-7951. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lili Hawaiian Barbecue 5811 Lone Tree Way, Brentwood, 925-634-5288. (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

Mac's Old House 3106 E. 18th St., Antioch, 925-757-0080. (American/Italian/Seafood/Steak House) $$$

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900. (Southern/Soul Food) $–$$

Aurebadee Restaurant 2175 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-0710. (Middle Eastern) $

Stadium 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1700. (American/English/Irish/Bars) $$

Cafe Lounge 2210 House Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1200. (Bay Area/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Mexican/Pizza) $$

Brazil Fresh Berkeley Cafe 2161 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8011. (Brazilian/South American) $

Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5552. (Tibetan) $–$$

La Mission 2064 Center St., Berkeley, 510-704-8085. (Mexican) $

Pasand Cafe 1907 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1821. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

Ecolicious 2370 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-645-0200. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

The Cheeseboard 2405 Bancroft St., Berkeley, 510-643-8073. (Organic/Cuisine) $

Eli's 2050 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-808-0703. (Hamburgers)

Flor 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-225-6055. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

Gorum Papaya 2016 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5658. (Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Grab N Go 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-540-5182. (Deli)

Henry's Piccolo House & Bar 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-809-4132. (California Cuisine) $$

Herbivore 2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1675. (Vegetarian/Vegan) $–$$

International House 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-8490. (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

Jayakarta 2026 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-0664. (Southeast Asian) $–$$

Long Life Vegi House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072. (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Lamon's Smokehouse 2180 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0828. (Barbecue) $–$$

The Mayflower 2116 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Chinese) $

Meridian International Sports Cafe 2001 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-705-1400. (American/Brewpub) $$

Naan's 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible].

Pie in the Sky 2124 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8478. (Pizza) $

Picante 2542 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-0125. (Central American) $–$$

Romeo 1923 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-2148. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Ponomemento 1565 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-5587. (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$

Sakura House Albany 2868 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-8817. (Japanese/Sushi) $

Bua Sawasdi 2060 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-665-8484. (Vegetarian/Vegan/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $

Sheff's Solano Cafe 2364 Shattuck Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0138. (American/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Saigon Kitchen 2064 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3050. (Indian/Pakistani) $

Curry of the Himalayas 1700 Shattuck Ave., Suite A, Berkeley, 510-849-4380. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Thai Delight Cuisine 1701 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0611. (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $–$$

Top Dog 2162 Center St., Berkeley, 510-849-0176. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Turkish Kitchen 1986 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9897. (Middle Eastern) $$

Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3665. (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Gorum 2120 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5850. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/American/Mexican/Indian/Pakistani) $–$$$

Zaza 1381 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981. (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$–$$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2827. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Casa Latina 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-7127. (Bakery/Mexican) $

Cesar's Shattuck Restaurant 1449 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1400. (Mexican) $–$$

César 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Cha-Am 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9664. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $–$$

Kirala 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1213. (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055. (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 downstairs/510-548-5049 cafe. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$–$$$$

Gorum 1118 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004. (Italian) $$$

Ici Lane 2634 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-0880. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Sabrina Cafe 1841 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-4919. (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani/Tibetan) $–$$

Gioia Pizzeria 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-528-4692. (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Grégoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893. (French/Organic/Sustainable) $–$$

Guerilla Cafe 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2233. (Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $

Berkeley Tea Court 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6888. (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

César Latino

4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1200. Piedmont branch of the acclaimed Gourmet Ghetto tapas bar forsakes the mother ship's Spanish cuisine for an array of Nuevo Latino dishes, with rewarding results. Menu standouts include a moist, spicy *pollo asado* (baked chicken), creamy fried plantains, and several tasty tacos and empanadas. Get the *pastel Imposible* (flan and chocolate cake) for dessert. Impressive wine and cocktail list. $$

Sfoof's Woofle Cafe

2554 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-1118. Order your own custom waffle — or "woofle," as they're called here — Cold Stone Creamery-style by choosing from among 27 sweet and savory toppings and mix-ins that range from pecans to coffee beans to cheesecake to Fruity Pebbles (bananas to pesto to garlic to Armenian *sujuk* sausage. Sandwiches such as the BLT Bosh and spinach-hummus-avocado-wings [illegible] are bright, fresh, and tasty made-to-order options for the waffle-avoidant, as are salads, house-made Middle Eastern pastries, and less-common cafe beverages including cardamom-spiked Turkish coffee, chicory-spiked café au lait, and cane-sugar-sweetened Mexican Coke. But it's with owner Huda Cur's predesigned woofles (such as the cinnamon-pecan Curry Bun and the feta-zaatar Arabian Nights) and custom mix-ins — all baked to order and rhapsodically fluffy — that the dream *really* begins. Every [illegible] unleashes its own chain of associations. $

Hibiscus

1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-444-2626. Chef Sarah Kirnon's nouvelle Caribe take on the rich, spicy flavors of her native Barbados stars at this moody, handsome downtown hotspot. Spicy Dungeness crab and grits, jerk Cornish game hen, stewed okra, and taro leaf and fried chicken with Brussels sprouts and seasoned lardons are among the menu's standouts; the leaden, meaty pepperpot is easily avoided. Inventive cocktail list. $$$

Encuentro

202 2nd St., Oakland, 510-832-3663. The creators of this cozy vegetarian wine bar in Oakland's warehouse district include Eric Tucker, executive chef at acclaimed San Francisco vegetarian restaurant Millennium, and Larry Shen, former owner of New Jersey vegan restaurant Down to Earth. Veteran house chef Linda Braz is the third partner. Artful sandwiches, the closest thing to entrées on a dinner-only all-organic menu, include peppered portobello mushrooms on a whole-wheat sourdough roll with caramelized onions, caramelized fennel, [illegible] hazelnut/almond vegan "cheese," and caper aioli. Other standouts include black-lentil stew, *farro* salad, and [illegible]-stuffed dates. The owners considered opening a vegan place, but in the end decided to serve cheese. This is a wine bar, after all, with a wide selection of organics from small independent producers. $$

Commis

3859 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902. Star chef James Syhabout's intricate, unusual, and beautifully balanced creations are showcased at his sparsely appointed, white-on-white *Piedmont Avenue* restaurant. The three-course prix fixe menu employs locally harvested seasonal ingredients in striking and unique combinations: sweetbreads on a bed of rye berries and allium nectar, [illegible] or Fort Bragg lingcod with toasted fennel, white beans, and seaweed broth; or a goat's milk panna cotta draped in beet-blood orange sorbet and candied pistachios. The food is more memorable than the overall experience, though, especially at these prices. Wine pairings available for an additional stipend. $$$$

Everest Cafe

[illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley CA, 510-526-4915. The bright, invigorating flavors of Nepal star at this friendly little Solano Avenue hideaway. In addition to delights like *momos* (steamed dumplings), *thukpa* (noodle soup), and *bhindi ko tarkari* (stewed okra and onions) there are several satisfying Indian preparations on the menu. The *saag aloo*, [illegible], potato naan, and tender, smoky tandoori chicken are worthwhile. The desserts are avoidable, but the mango *lassi* is as sweet and creamy as a milkshake. Good selection of Tibetan beers. $$

R[illegible]C

[illegible] (Armenian)

[illegible] Bistro 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-7890 (Italian) [illegible]

[illegible] Taqueria 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3354 (Deli/Kosher/Halal/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Top Dog 2503 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Cafe [illegible] 2?05 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-4368 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Cafe Valparaiso 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-3800 (South American) $$

Caribbean [illegible] 2556 Telegraph Ave., 2nd floor, Berkeley, 510-843-8475 (Caribbean) $$

La [illegible] 2977 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1107 (Mexican) $

[illegible] 2?48 Durant St., Berkeley, 510-548-0421 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

[illegible] 2?58 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-9107 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1672 (Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-845-2848 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Kirala 2100 Ward St., Berkeley, 510-549-3486 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Manpuku 2977 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-2536 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] Indian [illegible] 2?09 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-841-8138 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Norikonoko 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1274 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Paragon Bar & Cafe 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

[illegible] 3350 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-595-7??? (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

A Taste of Africa 3015 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-847-8604 (African/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5067 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

The Vault 2?50 Durant St., Berkeley, 510-595-9600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] 1911 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-849-3419 (Southeast Asian/Thai/[illegible]) $

BERKELEY WEST & EMERYVILLE

900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley, 510-704-9900 (California Cuisine) $

Anchalee 1094 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-848-4015 (Thai, Burmese) $$

Bette's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-3230 (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 1?? University Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-[illegible] (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

Brennan's Restaurant 720 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0960 (American) $

Bucci's 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-4725 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Cafe Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5447 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] Poblano 1?70 65th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0487 (Mexican) $$

[illegible] Bistro 1450 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-845-2322 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 1722 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-0100 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

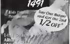
Everett & Jones Barbeque 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8261 (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 1?01 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5705 (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

IKEA 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-420-4532 (Scandinavian/Furniture & Home Furnishings) $

Indus Village 1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $

Jimmy Bean's 1290 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/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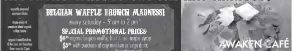
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KC's Bar-B-Que 2613 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1140 (Barbecue) $-$$

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1652 (Pizza/Art Galleries) $

Mola Restaurante 2200 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-898-4775 (Mexican/Salvadoran) $

Miyozo 1547 40th St., Emeryville, 510-923-8311 (Japanese/Sushi) $

O Chamé 1830 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-841-8783 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Japanese/Sushi/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 1328 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-525-3121 (Moroccan/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 800 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-7462 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Rudy's Can't Fail Café 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-594-1221 (American/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] 3027 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] 500 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-0802 (Thai/Seafood) $

Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1720 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

Skates on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-549-1900 (American/Seafood) $$

Sketch 1809A Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-665-5650 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-845-7771 (Seafood) $-$$

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Vik's 726 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4412 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

El Aguacate 4030 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-688-1071 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

E.J. Phair Brewing Company and Alehouse 2151 Salvio St., Suite L, Concord, 925-691-4253 (American/Brewpub) $-$$

[illegible] 2200 Monument Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-691-9130 (Mexican) $

Slader's Custom Ground 2227 Morello Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-2003 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Slader's Custom Ground 1820 Arnold Memorial Way, Concord, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 100 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill, (925) 685-3391 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La Piñata 2301 Willow Pass Rd., Concord, 925-609-9819 (Mexican) $$

[illegible] Eatery & Wine Bar 1802 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 925-944-0400 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Los [illegible] 1099 [illegible] Dr., Concord, 925-685-7832 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Los Toros 2285 Monument Blvd., Suite I, Concord, 925-688-7133 (Mexican) $

[illegible] Ristorante 2151 Salvio St., Ste. L, Concord, 925-521-0010 (Italian) $$-$$$

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[illegible] 12236 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-525-8366 (Mexican) $

The Dead Fish 30003 San Pablo Ave., Crockett, 510-787-3323 (American/Seafood) $$-$$$

[illegible] City Cafe 110 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine) $$

The Junket 235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4622 (Deli/German/American/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $

[illegible] 3850 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-223-[illegible] (Central American) $

[illegible] Barbecue House 3806 San Pablo Ave., Suite F, Hercules, 510-724-2380 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Krung Thep 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-8306 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Little Ange's 5515 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, 510-237-8979 ([illegible]) $$-$$$

Delights Restaurant Delights 1572 Sycamore Ave., Suite F, Hercules, 510-245-[illegible] ([illegible]) $

Hoa Hoa Thai 12901 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-215-1223 (Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 750 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-1952 (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$

[illegible] Gourmet delivery only, El Cerrito, 510-290-1970 (Deli/Pizza) $$

[illegible] Thai 12950 Pablo St., #311, Richmond, 510-558-8038 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] Thai Restaurant 12260 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-237-5540 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

[illegible] Parking lot of 510 23rd St., Richmond (Mexican) $

El Tucanazo 11821 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-235-1588 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] 544 Willow Ave., Hercules, 510-799-8800 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] Seafood Restaurant 10750 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-6847 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

[illegible] 43278 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-656-0958 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe 3054 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-796-3400 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] 33320 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, 510-471-8197 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Al Afghan Kabob House 37409 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-9599 (Afghan/Fusion Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] 43785 Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-440-1517 (Belgian/Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 5880 Dyer Rd., Union City, (510) 324-8808 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 1773 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-487-1168 (Chinese) $

[illegible] Express 34420-G Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-608-0585 (Chinese) $

Lovely Sweets and Snacks 41030 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-3412 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

Masala Grill 38158 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont, 510-797-7700 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 5200 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-792-2000 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$

New [illegible] 1745 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-675-0485 (Chinese) $

[illegible] Hot Pot Restaurant 5008 Mowry Ave., Newark, 510-792-2600 (Chinese) $$

Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-9200 (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$

[illegible] 5988 New Park Mall Rd., Newark, 510-794-8400 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

[illegible] Cafe 1213 A St., Hayward, 510-582-2558 (French) $$$

Buon Appetito [illegible] A St., Hayward, 510-247-0820 (Italian) $$

[illegible] Barbecue 250 A Street, Hayward, (510) 581-3272 (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 25836 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-785-7120 (Chinese) $$

Han Yang Korean Bar-B-Q Restaurant 27165 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-886-7762 (Barbecue/Korean) $$

The Hayward [illegible] 23877 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-581-5532 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$-$$$

Hong Kong I.D. Restaurant 20131 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley, 510-880-1688 (Chinese) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 27308 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-785-8881 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La Piñata 2185 [illegible] St., San Leandro, 510-351-8931 (Mexican) $$

La Piñata 904 [illegible] St., Hayward, 510-538-9967 (Mexican) $$

[illegible] 29506 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-670-0727 (Filipino/Southeast Asian) $-$$

[illegible] 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-886-8713 (American/Deli) $

[illegible] 1421 E St., Hayward, 510-583-9744 (California Cuisine/Seafood) $$$

[illegible] Korean Restaurant 1282 Davis St., San Leandro, 510-568-8795 (Korean) $$-$$$

Pot Pie Paradise 3522 Arden Rd., Hayward, 510-311-4994 (American) $

Sweet [illegible] Restaurant 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-533-8888 (Caribbean) $$

[illegible] Sushi 1427 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-352-3748 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

LAMORINDA

[illegible] Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2000 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

[illegible] 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2470 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] Cafe 3563 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-6830 (Mexican) $-$$

La [illegible] Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101, Lafayette, 925-284-5280 (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Restaurant 1 Theatre Way, Orinda, 925-253-8862 (Chinese) $

[illegible] Lafayette 3624 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4420 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$

Pizza Antica 3600 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-0500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

Ristorante [illegible] 350 Park St., Moraga, 925-317-7682 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 3501 Plaza Way, Lafayette, 925-284-1330 (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

B 499 9th St., Oakland, 510-251-8770 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Battambang Restaurant 850 Broadway, Oakland, 510-839-8815 (Cambodian/Laotian/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Vietnamese/Vegan) $-$$

La Borinqueña Mex-icatessen 582 Seventh St., Oakland, 510-444-0854 (Mexican) $-$$

Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Caffe Verbena 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level of KPI Building, Oakland, 510-465-9300 (California Cuisine/Italian) $-$$$

Cam Huong Cafe 920 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-8800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Chef Edwards' Bar-B-Que 1915 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-834-9516 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Chef Lau 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-3288 (Chinese/Seafood) $

Le Cheval 1007 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-8495 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$-$$$

D&A Cafe 327 Eighth St., Oakland, 510-839-6733 (Chinese) $

Encuentro 202 2nd St., Oakland, 510-832-5463 (Wine Bar/Tapas/Small Plates/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350 (Barbecue) $$

Flora 1900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-

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Hao Nam 358 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-208-1288. (Chinese) $

Hibiscus 1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-444-2626. (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Huynh 317 10th St., Oakland, 510-839-5238. (Vietnamese) $$

Ichiro 412 15th St., Oakland, 510-452-1994. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$

Ital Carnivale 1405 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-836-4825. (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Oakland Restaurant and Oakland 901 Washington St., Oakland, 510-451-1901. (Cajun/Creole/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Kwan 1915 Clay St., Oakland, 510-238-1780. (Caribbean/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Lake Chalet 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, 510-208-5253. (California Cuisine/Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Italian/Seafood) $$$$

Lara Rafe 432 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-832-1010. (African) $$

Legendary Palace 708 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-663-9188. (Chinese) $-$$

Levende East 827 Washington St., Oakland, 510-835-5585. (California Cuisine) $$$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677. (Belgian/California Cuisine/French/Bars) $$-$$$

Miss Pearl's Jam House One Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171. (Caribbean) $$$

Mua 2442 Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-1100. (American/Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Nellie's 1355 3rd St., Oakland, 510-835-1756. (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Oyster Reef 1000 Embarcadero Rd., Oakland, 510-836-2500. (Seafood) $$$

Pican 2295 Broadway, Oakland, 510-834-1000. (Southern/Soul Food/American/Barbecue/Cajun/Creole/California Cuisine) $$$$

Restaurant Peony 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-286-8866. (Chinese) $$$$

Shan Dong 328 10th St. #101, Oakland, 510-839-2299. (Chinese) $-$$

Shanghai Restaurant 930 Webster St., Oakland, 510-465-6878. (Chinese) $-$$

Shashamane 2500 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-4313. (Ethiopian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] House 249 Broadway, Oakland, 510-977-1675. (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 1875 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-768-0800. (California Cuisine) $$

Spices 3 369 12th St., Oakland, 510-625-8838. (Chinese) $$

Sun Hing Deli Market 800 8th St., Oakland, 510-839-1518. (Chinese) $

Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana 468 8th St., Oakland, 510-444-1944. (Mexican/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] 499 14th St., Suite 17, Oakland, 510-832-1000. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uncle Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 614 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-9200. (Barbecue) $-$$

Yong Kee Restaurant 888 Webster St., Oakland, 510-839-2010. (Chinese) $

OAKLAND EAST

Ba Le 1500 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-9800. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Com Hoang Restaurant 200 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-444-2590. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Guadalajara Restaurant 3730 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-6790. (Mexican) $

El [illegible] 4609 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8890. (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] 2970 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-533-0800. (Mexican) $$

El Huarache Azteca 3842 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-2295. (Mexican) $

[illegible] Deli 1220 7th Ave., Oakland, 510-836-0480. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 941 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-465-0838. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 2230 Livingston St., Oakland, 510-698-4802. (Breakfast/Brunch) $

[illegible] 3872 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-8069. (Mexican) $-$$

Phnom Penh House 3912 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-8988. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

Pho Ao Sen 250 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-839-6858. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pho Hoa Hiep II 1833 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-8658. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Pho [illegible] 120 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-456-5858. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pupuseria [illegible] 3340 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-437-8561. (Central American) $

Taqueria [illegible] 2138 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-535-1200. (Mexican) $

[illegible] 3? 38th Ave., Oakland, 510-532-9202. (Southeast) $$

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7180. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bellanico 4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180. (Italian/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$

[illegible] 3511 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-541-5031. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

César Latino 4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1200. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 4471 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-213-1154. (French) $$

Commis 3859 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902. (California Cuisine/Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. (American/Afghan/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Brigitte 4901 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-548-3444. (French) $-$$

Oakland Submarine Sandwiches 2908 Antioch Ct., Oakland, 510-339-3721. (American) $

Holy Land 677 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535. (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-7658. (Korean) $$

Lo Coco's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6222. (Italian/Pizza) $$

[illegible] Ethiopian Restaurant 4301 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-1122. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

[illegible] Sushi 3700 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-6654. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] Bar & Grill 3411 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-268-1848. (Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] 542 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-452-6580. (American) $$-$$$

Spettro 3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-451-7738. (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$

Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2905. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Bars) $$

Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124. (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0444. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Gordo Taqueria 5653 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-6095. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Hudson 5484 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5444. (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/French) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] of India 5211 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-868-3481. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000. (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4110. (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$$

[illegible] 5316 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3370. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 4051 Linden St., Oakland, 510-595-8350. (Japanese/Vegan) $

[illegible] 5371 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-8388. (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

[illegible] 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4058. (Italian) $$$

[illegible] 5415 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-654-7753. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Nan Yang 6048 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3298. (Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-3559. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356. (Italian/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$$

Somerset 5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1823. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 5819 Broadway, Oakland, 510-601-1180. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 5634 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-5426. (California Cuisine/American/Asian Fusion/Burgers/Cajun/Hawaiian/Mexican/Seafood/South American/Tapas/Wine Bar) $$$

Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6607. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385. (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

[illegible] 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-1213. (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

[illegible] 5721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2900. (Asian) $$

Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-7999. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casserole House 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-8001. (Korean) $

Doña Tomás 5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0522. (Mexican) $$$

[illegible] 6085 Telegraph Ave., Building A, Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Bakery) $

Kang Jang [illegible] 3702 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2930. (Korean) $$

Koryo Sushi 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-0981. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6007. (Korean) $$

Lanesplitter Pub and Pizza 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350. (Pizza/Art Galleries) $

[illegible] 4001 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-645-5000. (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] Cafe 6580 Oakland Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344. (Seafood/Organic/Sustainable/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Music Venues) $

[illegible] Korean Restaurant 3015 [illegible]way, Oakland, 510-594-8300. (Korean) $-$$$

[illegible] B.B.Q. 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3366. (Korean) $$

Phat Matt's BBQ 3415 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-879-1254. (Barbecue/American/Burgers/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Pyung Chang Tofu House 4701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-9040. (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

S&S Seafood 4923 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-0584. (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $

Oakland Barbeque House 2020 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-834-5757. (Korean) $-$$

Seoul Gom Tang 4014 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-597-9688. (Korean) $

Yuyu Za Zang 3919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2288. (Chinese/Korean) $

TRI-VALLEY

[illegible] & Steak [illegible] Main St., Sunol, 925-862-0271. (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

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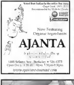

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Nonni and Domingue's Bistro 310 Rose Ave., Pleasanton, 925-462-8100. (French) $$$-$$$$

Oasis Grille 780 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-4222. (Armenian/Brazilian/[illegible]) $-$$

Forbes Mill Steakhouse 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West, Danville, 925-552-0505. (Steak House) $$$$

Hap's Original 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton, 925-600-9200. (American/Steak) $$-$$$

[illegible] Deli [illegible] Pl., San Ramon, 925-830-1144. (Hawaiian) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 4015 Hopyard Rd. Suite F2, Pleasanton, 925-461-2303. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 105 Town & Country Dr. Suite G, Danville, 925-552-8318. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Market Market 499 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, 925-362-8000. (Italian) $$

McNamara's Steak & Chop House 7400 San Ramon Rd., Dublin, 925-833-0995. (American/Seafood/Steak) $$$

Patrick [illegible] 416 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., Danville, 925-838-7611. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave., Danville, 925-820-6611. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Red Runner Grill 4501 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-224-8397. (American/Barbecue) $

Red Runner Cafe 4920 [illegible] Blvd., [illegible], 925-828-8300. (American) $

Sakura 5151 Crow Canyon Pl. #C, San Ramon, 925-271-9670. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Sergio's Bistro 580 Bollinger Canyon Way, San Ramon, 925-988-1050. (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] 21350 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

San Ramon, 925-[illegible]. (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

[illegible] 250 Market Pl., San Ramon, 925-328-[illegible]. (Mexican) $

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon, 925-244-1222. (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

Babushka [illegible] 1475 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-939-2179. (Eastern European) $$

[illegible] 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek, 925-938-2464. (American/Steak House) $$$$

Le [illegible] 1930 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-407-8000. (French/Organic) $$$

[illegible] 1512 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-952-5680. ([illegible]) $$

Kinder's [illegible] Walnut 1471 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-932-0990. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lark Creek Walnut Creek 1360 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-1234. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1521 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-291-8112. (Chinese) $$

The Original Hick'ry Pit 1495 South Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-2450. (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-7780. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] [illegible] Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible]. ([illegible]) $$-$$$

[illegible] 850 South Broadway, Walnut Creek, 925-943-5666. (Steak House) $$$-$$$$

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CULINARY & WINE

30th Anniversary Ultimate Pie Fund-Raiser Pie sale to raise money for the African People's Education and Defense Fund. [illegible], March 28, 10 a.m.-start. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-7033, WorldGrounds.com.

[illegible] Sessions [illegible] Kong makes cocktails on the spot using cocktail syrups, liqueurs, and some specialty spirits. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 1. Forbidden Island, 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332, ForbiddenIslandAlameda.com.

Charles Chocolates Factory Tour Opportunity to watch chocolates in production [illegible]. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m., free. Charles Chocolates Factory Store and Chocolate Bar, 6529 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-652-4412, CharlesChocolates.com.

Flight Night Featuring winemaker [illegible] Stark of Page Mill Winery, a family-owned Livermore [illegible] noted for producing small quantities of high quality wines. Call 925-456-2450 to make reservations. Last Thursday of every month, 5-7 p.m., $12-$25. Wente Vineyards Restaurant, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450, WenteVineyards.com.

Food and Wine Tastings to Benefit Berkeley [illegible] With twenty [illegible] wineries and specialty [illegible]. Wed., March 24, 6-8 p.m., $20. Gourmet Ghetto, Shattuck Ave. (between Rose and [illegible] Sts.), Berkeley, www.[illegible]shattuck.org/

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family [illegible]. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Market St. (at Haight Ave.), Webster St., Alameda.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-6000, [illegible]

[illegible] Certified Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, fresh breads, and specialty food items. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] St. at Prospect St., [illegible]

Farm Fresh Choice Community produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-income neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley, 510-981-5850, ci.berkeley.ca.us/[illegible]

Hayward Public Library Book Sale and Farmers' Market Call 510-881-[illegible] for info. Fourth Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fourth Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1, free. Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 B St., Hayward, 510-583-4366, www.ci.hayward.ca.us/[illegible]

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, California-grown fruits and vegetables. Located in the courtyard behind the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With produce selling locally-grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With produce selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Oakland, 3601 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market With fresh fruits, nuts, greens, vegetables, and flowers. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser [illegible] Center, Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce on the cafeteria patio. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a number of fresh flowers, certified organic [illegible] produce, fresh wild fish from [illegible], vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, cheese, fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by [illegible], a nonprofit that strives to promote nutritional awareness, access to healthy foods and the connections between people and our planet. The market includes [illegible] organic produce from A&P Organic Farm [illegible] out of [illegible], CA and a youth-led prepared food booth called the Purple Lawn Cafe. For more info or to find out how to purchase produce [illegible] call 510-[illegible]. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd.

North Shattuck Farmers' Market Organic specialty foods, all-organic produce and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free admission. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast [illegible] Organic Farmers' Market Seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, [illegible], flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington St., Oakland, [illegible], JackLondonSquare.com.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-981-6700.

[illegible] Farmers' Market California produce farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruit and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Union City Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh seasonal produce and also food, plus a basketball court. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Old Alvarado/Cesar Chavez Park, Smith & [illegible] St., Union City.

PICK

Grow Your Own Salad Class

Teach yourself to grow arugula, endive, and beets in salads all summer without a single trip to the farmers' market or grocery store. Learn what to plant and how to start at a **Grow Your Own Salad** class at **Magic Gardens** (729 Heinz Ave., Berkeley) on Saturday, Mar. 27. Topics include companion planting, heat-and-light requirements, and organic pest control. Coffee and snacks will be provided. 10 a.m., free. MagicGardens.com —*Anneli Rufus*

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MOVIES

A MAN CALLED PANIC

Why we love to watch Ben Stiller suffer (*Greenberg*). And why we don't enjoy it so much with Julianne Moore (*Chloe*)

By Kelly Vance

Ben Stiller stars as semi-employed carpenter Roger Greenberg in *Greenberg*.

Greenberg
Directed by Noah Baumbach. With Ben Stiller, Greta Gerwig, and Rhys Ifans. Opens Friday.

Chloe
Directed by Atom Egoyan. With Amanda Seyfried, Julianne Moore, and Liam Neeson. Opens Friday.

You hardly ever hear the word "neurotic" any more, particularly in reference to mainstream entertainment. Once upon a time, notably in the Sixties and Seventies, entire strata of movies, TV, novels, advertising, and pop songs — real, genuine popular entertainment products — were based on the neurotic premise. Protagonists were almost required by law to be moody, depressed, or at least anxious about something.

Not any more, of course. Styles change, even if people basically remain the same. It's not cool to be antsy, out of place, or maladjusted any more. We've got better drugs these days, for one thing. And there's the whole connectivity yadda-yadda — social networking sites and whatnot. It's almost as if a poor schnook, the sort of guy who would be scraping along the pavement looking for a friend, no longer has a right to complain about anything.

That's what Roger Greenberg, eponymous hero of Noah Baumbach's *Greenberg*, is getting at when he blurts out, in the midst of a cocaine-alcohol-Vicodin-fueled rant to a party full of twentysomethings in the last quarter of the film, that their generation is just so irritatingly *blithe*. He's playing the old "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs, you don't understand the situation" riff. It's one of the many moments in Baumbach's often-hilarious screenplay when we're unsure whether to laugh out loud or to feel embarrassed for the poor guy.

Writer-director Baumbach has that self-pitying riff nailed, and so does Roger (Ben Stiller). *Greenberg*'s 41-year-old loser with a boner is A Man Called Panic, the guy who can't even be happy house-sitting a mansion in Beverly Hills. Check that — it's a mansion in Beverly Hills with a personal assistant attached.

Roger, a semi-employed carpenter who lives in Brooklyn, returns to his hometown of Los Angeles to house-sit for his successful brother Phillip (Chris Messina) while Phillip and his family are on a business-and-pleasure trip to Vietnam. All Roger has to do is maybe build a doghouse for Mahler, the family pet, and keep an amiable eye on the neighbors who are allowed to use the pool. Anything else Roger needs can be handled by Florence (Greta Gerwig), the Greenberg family's girl Friday. Florence is tall, blond, and mellow to a fault — in classic neurotic comedy terms, she's the ideal blond shiksa match for restless, chronically dissatisfied Roger. But of course Baumbach isn't much interested in old-fashioned *Annie Hall*-*When Harry Met Sally*-type laughs.

With Roger, Stiller gets back to the "kick me hard" persona his fans know well from countless movies (*The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Meet the Parents*, *Flirting with Disaster*, etc.). Roger claims to hate Los Angeles, but he understands it like a native and has friends to look up, including his former bandmate Ivan (Rhys Ifans). There's a lot of bad juju between the two from a failed music-biz deal, but Ivan seems truly happy to reunite with his pal, at least at first. The corrosiveness takes a while to work.

Everything distresses Roger. He can't swim, so the pool is useless. He doesn't drive, so he's always begging Ivan or Florence for a lift. He's annoyed with the pool-sharing neighbors, who awaken him every morning with their splashing and clatter. When Ivan and Florence surprise him with a birthday celebration at Musso & Frank's restaurant, Roger responds with a childish temper tantrum. He pops pills constantly. He's bitter about being middle-aged.

At first, Florence views Roger as yet another hurdle in her lowly career as a gofer, but after awhile we sense she has developed a fondness for him, despite their age difference (he's 41, she's 25) and Roger's appalling manners. Their fumbling first sex scene is one of the most uncomfortable screen couplings in recent memory — a forcible rape might have had more tenderness. Gerwig, renowned as the "Queen of Mumblecore" for her slacker-icon roles in such shoestring indie pics as *Baghead* and *The House of the Devil*, endows Florence with a sheen of diffidence. It's really a wall from behind which she surveys her life, warily.

Florence is no cookie-cutter *There's Something About Mary* foil for Stiller's antics — she's every bit as visibly bruised as he is. That's the difference between Baumbach and the Farrelly Bros./*Zoolander* approach to neurotic humor. In a lowbrow romp with, say, Greg Focker, it's safe to relax and laugh at the clown. With the creator of *The Squid and the Whale* and *Margot at the Wedding*, the humor crosses over into pathos early and often. The clown is visibly pained and the laughs hurt everybody's feelings, even our own. Note how many people in the movie audience dare to snort at Florence's pitiful song performance at the open stage.

During his stay in LA, Roger has hopes for a reunion with his ex, Beth, played by Jennifer Jason Leigh. Leigh, a charismatic actor unafraid to mix vulnerability with menace, collaborated with director Baumbach (her real-life husband) on the scenario and it works like a charm, with the pathetic-into-exhilarating Stiller and Gerwig combination leading the way. Her acting-writing teaming with Baumbach is just as exciting as Stiller's triumphant return to the neurotic kingdom. Misery loves company.

Chloe follows another well-worn narrative path, the marital strife triangle, with disappointing but vividly lurid results. Trouble develops when frustrated Toronto wife Catherine Stewart (Julianne Moore), who happens to be a gynecologist, suspects her university drama professor husband David (Liam Neeson) of diddling his female students, among others. The focus of Catherine's investigation is Chloe, a downtown call girl (Amanda Seyfried from *Jennifer's Body* and *Dear John*). In a surprise twist, Catherine hires Chloe to seduce David — the better to understand his motives — but the strategy races out of control.

Atom Egoyan, arguably Canada's best-known purveyor of serious dramas of urban angst, didn't write *Chloe* — he only directs it from a screenplay by Erin Cressida Wilson, adapted from Anne Fontaine's 2003 French film *Nathalie*. Somehow Egoyan's heart and soul don't seem to be in it. The horror-movie mechanics of Chloe's manipulation of the hapless middle-class family ultimately have more in common with the musings of another Canadian ace, David Cronenberg, or perhaps those of Michael Haneke. It might have been fun to see what Stuart Gordon (*The Re-Animator*) would have made of it, with or without a hand from David Mamet. None of that prevents Moore from stealing what's left of the histrionics. Her walk on the wild side is arguably credible. Wish we could say that for Neeson's tart, bait horn-dog and Seyfried's predatory *poule deluxe*. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.sy/greenberg

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MOVIES&THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.) and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com.

OPENING

Chloe Director Atom Egoyan, whose *Adoration* [illegible] angst and moody [illegible] didn't write this [illegible] was adapted by Erin Cressida Wilson from Anne Fontaine's 2003 French film *Nathalie*, and there's not much of what we recognize as Egoyan's soul [illegible] the role of a cheating professor (Liam Neeson) a cool wife who [illegible] (Julianne Moore), and a [illegible] (Amanda Seyfried) who exploits the [illegible] all the way to [illegible]. Give Moore a gold star [illegible] as Catherine, [illegible] James [illegible] university prof David and Seyfried's scheming [illegible] character, [illegible] from the melodrama [illegible] Stuart (*Re-Animator*) Gordon should have [illegible] it instead. Also with Max Thieriot as Catherine and David's teenage son. (96 min.) (K.V.) (CAPH)

Greenberg Ben Stiller adds back to Schmuckville [illegible] plays Roger Greenberg, a fortyish loser who [illegible] his successful brother's Beverly Hills home but can't enjoy it, not even when a gifted personal [illegible] Florence (played by Greta Gerwig from *Baghead*) is one of the best [illegible] another Noah Baumbach [illegible] tragedy. Writer-director [illegible] (*The Squid and the Whale*, *Margot at the Wedding*) [illegible] Roger's [illegible] in hell with well-intentioned [illegible] ex-friends (Rhys Ifans, co-writer Jennifer Jason Leigh, both [illegible]), but it's the title character's pathetic dealings with [illegible] sweetly docile Florence that [illegible] the strongest [illegible] among the many things Roger doesn't know how to [illegible] relax and get laid. [illegible] with both Baumbach and Stiller at the top of their respective game. (106 min.) (K.V.) (CAPH)

Hot Tub Time Machine [illegible] Cusack stars in this time-travel-themed comedy. Directed by Steve Pink. BB, HC, CWC, [illegible]

How to Train Your Dragon [illegible] CGI spectacular from the [illegible] *Avatar* [illegible] the voice of the hero, a [illegible] teenage [illegible] a village of burly Vikings who maintain a continual [illegible] against [illegible] dragons. The boy [illegible] he has an affinity with the [illegible] beasts but still struggles to win the respect and understanding of his ultra-macho warrior dad (an unaccountably entertaining Gerard Butler). [illegible] Jonah Hill [illegible] and more about [illegible] visualizing [illegible] James Cameron ever will. (98 min.) [illegible] CWC, CUPH [illegible]

The Sun (Solntse) Russian filmmaker Alexander Sokurov (*Russian Ark*) [illegible] docudrama [illegible] with a [illegible] of the [illegible] Japanese emperor Hirohito (played by Issey Ogata) and [illegible] American generals

Showtimes Online
Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each movie listing. **AL** = Albany, **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, **BB** = Brenden Concord, **BH** = Blackhawk, **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg, **BS** = Bay Street, **CA** = California, **CAPH** = CinéArts Pleasant Hill, **CB** = Century Bayfair, **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas, **CEPH** = Century Pleasant Hill, **CH** = Century Hilltop, **CHE** = Century Hayward, **CN** = Cinedome Newark, **CRC** = Crow Canyon, **CSC** = Chabot Space and Science, **CUC** = Century Union City, **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek, **DV** = Deer Valley, **GL** = Grand Lake, **JL** = Jack London, **LP** = La Peña, [illegible] **RA** = Regal Antioch, [illegible] **UAB** = UA Berkeley, **UAEV** = UA Emery Bay, **V** = Vine, **VWS** = Vista West Solano

Douglas MacArthur (Robert Lawson), brought together to arrange Japan's surrender at the end of WWII. [illegible] the sun god of his empire [illegible] is portrayed as a shy, retiring man [illegible] MacArthur, on the other hand, [illegible] takes a [illegible] with something like amused equanimity. (110 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

Alice in Wonderland *Alice* and *Wonder* [illegible] own good. The [illegible], wonderland, even threatening. Precious little of the [illegible] in the Tim Burton [illegible], even though it could be argued [illegible] from an adaptation by [illegible] of the commercial "two-[illegible]" of the [illegible]. Romantic [illegible] Mia Wasikowska as [illegible] Alice, Johnny Depp as the [illegible], Michael Jackson-[illegible] the voice of Alan Rickman as [illegible] the hookah-smoking caterpillar and Anne Hathaway as the [illegible] White Queen. The tea party is appropriately trippy. [illegible] Crispin Glover's evil Red Knight, Danny Elfman's [illegible] score, and the [illegible] battle, with a [illegible] Alice against the Jabberwocky. Consumer note: [illegible] make a [illegible] difference [illegible] you see it in 3-D [illegible], so save the "premium ticket" fee at the theater. Also with Helena Bonham Carter as the Red Queen, and the [illegible] of Stephen Fry (Cheshire Cat), [illegible] (March Hare), Michael Sheen (White Rabbit), Christopher Lee (Jabberwocky), and [illegible] (Tweedledee). (108 min.) [illegible]

An Education A [illegible] middle-class London high-school student named Jenny (in a magnetic performance by Carey Mulligan) falls head over heels for an [illegible] older man named [illegible] (Peter Sarsgaard) [illegible] to Paris, etc., circa 1961. [illegible] director Lone Scherfig [illegible] with a character of [illegible] and her able cast to [illegible] Mulligan and Sarsgaard. Alfred Molina as Jenny's boring father, Emma Thompson and [illegible] Williams as her concerned [illegible], and Sally Hawkins in a quick, [illegible] role as the [illegible] woman. The smart screenplay was [illegible] by [illegible] novelist Nick Hornby [illegible] a memoir by journalist Lynn Barber. (95 min.) (K.V.)

Avatar Five years in the making, three [illegible] the [illegible] writer-director James Cameron (*The Terminator, The Abyss, Titanic*) [illegible] with his story of rapacious earthlings invading the [illegible] planet of Pandora and trying to [illegible] the tall, graceful, blue-skinned natives [illegible]. The CGI wealth [illegible] dragons, raging [illegible], and [illegible] government [illegible] second-hand [illegible] with [illegible]. The *New World* [illegible] and the dialogue [illegible] Jake (Sam Worthington), who [illegible] against his [illegible] shape-shifting [illegible] — but he [illegible] in the shuffle. The US military [illegible] (Stephen Lang, Giovanni Ribisi) are [illegible] as are the Na'vi [illegible] including [illegible] (voice of Zoe Saldana). Even the king of the [illegible] wrong here. (162 min.) [illegible]

The Blind Side Based on the nonfiction book by Michael Lewis, [illegible] tells the story of Michael Oher, a gigantic black [illegible] from impoverished West Memphis who was [illegible] by a local Christian academy and [illegible] by a wealthy white family; he became an All-American [illegible] who was drafted in the first round the year by the Baltimore Ravens. The story is inspiring and [illegible] Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock in a fine performance), the strong-willed mother whose love and generosity [illegible] a [illegible] into a [illegible] young man with a [illegible] future. [illegible] John Lee Hancock (*The Rookie*) directed his own [illegible], with Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates, and [illegible]. (125 min.) [illegible]

The Bounty Hunter Romantic comedy [illegible] Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler. Directed by Andy Tennant. [illegible]

Brooklyn's Finest If there were any more cops on the edge in this [illegible], Brooklyn would need a bigger edge. Ethan Hawke is a hard-charging narc who's desperate to move his wife and pregnant wife (Lily Taylor) out of their toxic [illegible] Richard Gere is an alcoholic [illegible] seven days before retirement; and Don Cheadle is an undercover agent [illegible] identification with a [illegible] (Wesley Snipes) is beginning to outweigh his loyalty to the badge. Eventually they all wind up [illegible] range of one another. [illegible] director Antoine Fuqua and [illegible] a long way [illegible] since *Training Day*. (140 min.) [illegible]

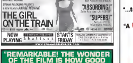
[illegible] [illegible] Camille De Souza and Vikas Bhalla [illegible] in this tale of a young man trying to [illegible]. Directed by Ravi Ghosh.

Cop Out Nothing to see here. Keep moving. [illegible] Willis and Tracy Morgan are New York cops [illegible] relieves them of their guns and badges after their clumsy pursuit of a [illegible] drug lord [illegible] and a neighborhood [illegible]. They [illegible] the rest of the story [illegible] around their guns and badges, but [illegible] the [illegible] ing, director Kevin Smith [illegible] comedy to a script by TV [illegible] and Mark Cullen (*Heist, Las Vegas*), but to no avail. [illegible] Smith [illegible]. With Kevin Pollak and [illegible]. (107 min.) [illegible]

The Crazies Average horror flick [illegible] producer George Romero, whose [illegible] film of the same name is [illegible] the [illegible] — with [illegible] a screenplay adaptation by [illegible] and Ray Wright, [illegible] things begin to happen to the [illegible] after a government plane crashes [illegible] water supply, and it's up to the sheriff (Timothy Olyphant), his [illegible] wife (Radha Mitchell), and a deputy (Joe Anderson) to figure it out. [illegible] Don't [illegible] Romero [illegible] (101 min.) [illegible] University of California, Berkeley

Crazy Heart Jeff Bridges gives a signature career performance as Bad Blake, a [illegible] music singer-songwriter [illegible] his [illegible] into the ground on a nowhere tour [illegible] Southwestern [illegible]. To the rescue comes Jean (Maggie Gyllenhaal), a single mother with a [illegible] on her, as well, and [illegible] Sweet, Bad's one-time protégé, now a rising country star (Colin Farrell). Can the old man turn himself around? The well-worn screenplay, adapted by director Scott Cooper from Thomas Cobb's novel, [illegible] when Bridges [illegible] of his songs [illegible] by T-Bone Burnett, with Stephen Bruton and Ryan Bingham, and Bridges sings them with [illegible] authority. He grabs hold of the character [illegible]. Also with Robert Duvall and Paul Herman. (111 min.) [illegible]

Greenberg [illegible] An [illegible] woman [illegible] home-front war [illegible] director Lasse Hallström and novelist [illegible] Sparks. An [illegible] soldier (Channing Tatum) with a [illegible]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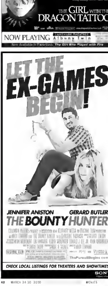
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pathologically shy [illegible] (Richard Jenkins) [illegible] a [illegible] (Amanda Seyfried from [illegible]) while on leave in their [illegible] of Charleston, SC circa 2001. He [illegible] out for various wars, they [illegible] and [illegible], and that's it. Could have used a bit more [illegible] incident, not to mention [illegible] in the [illegible] scenes. [illegible] lend [illegible] character support, but it's not enough. Hallström has a history of [illegible] (The Cider House Rules, Chocolat, The Shipping News). Chalk up one more (105 min.) (KV) [illegible] University of California, Berkeley

Diary of a Wimpy Kid [illegible] (JJ) [illegible]

BB, BC, BP, CWC, EB, [illegible] CCC, CRC, RA, RH, JL, UAB, [illegible]

Fantastic Mr. Fox Maybe all along Wes Anderson was an animation genius waiting to break out, and [illegible] for this masterful retelling of Roald Dahl's [illegible] tale of a semi-retired fox (voice of George Clooney) [illegible] Fantastic Mr. Fox [illegible] Meryl Streep, [illegible] Royal Tenenbaums, The [illegible] (87 min.) (KV) [illegible]

The Ghost Writer [illegible] (by Robert Harris, adapting his own novel, and Polanski) and [illegible] Ewan McGregor [illegible] Martha's Vineyard. He's the second ghost writer to take the job. [illegible] (128 min.) (KV) [illegible]

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo [illegible] A Stockholm [illegible] journalist with a libel conviction hanging over him (Michael Nyqvist) joins forces with the [illegible] hacker (Noomi Rapace) to investigate a forty-year-old missing [illegible] Stieg Larsson's novel. [illegible] (152 min., 2009 [illegible]) (KV) AL

[illegible]

[illegible] It's Matt Damon against the world in Paul Greengrass' [illegible] war movie. [illegible] (KV) [illegible]

[illegible]

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The Last Station Filmmaker Michael Hoffman's old-fashioned literary bio stars Christopher Plummer as aged Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy and Helen Mirren as his termagant wife Sofya, battling the pilgrim author over his estate planning. When Plummer and Mirren go into their spirited [illegible], time [illegible] by entertaining. When James McAvoy (as a diffident Tolstoy acolyte) and Paul Giamatti (as Tolstoy's scheming chief disciple) are onscreen, time [illegible] [illegible] Hoffman's screenplay, adapted from the novel by Jay Parini, opts for a straightforward account of Tolstoy's last days. It [illegible] [illegible] McAvoy's [illegible] and his [illegible] girlfriend (Kerry Condon) to go with the Plummer-Mirren [illegible] (112 min., 2009, [illegible]). (KV [CAPH, AL, Y

Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers Bay Area docu writer-makers Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith give us a thorough first account of Daniel Ellsberg, the [illegible] think-tank policy maker whose change of conscience in 1969 led to his liberating the so-called "Pentagon Papers." The [illegible] of that "secret history of the Vietnam war" changed the concept of government secrecy forever, and Ellsberg has been either castigated as a whistle or worshiped as a hero ever since, depending on your politics. Then President Nixon sounds off as a power-mad paranoiac, but then we already knew that. Still and relevance today. [illegible] (92 min.) (KV) [illegible]

Mother (Madeo) South Korea's Bong Joon-ho proves himself one of that cinema-mad country's finest [illegible] with this [illegible] woven, emotionally powerful story of a developmentally challenged, [illegible] young man (Won Bin) charged with the murder of a young woman, and the [illegible] lengths to which the young man's mother (Kim Hye-ja, in a terrific performance) goes to spring him. As the mother trudges through the [illegible] in search of clues to exonerate her son, [illegible] Bong [illegible] a [illegible] neo-noir filled with bizarre character details and odd twists. The character moves [illegible] in slow, [illegible] until it's ready to leap up and scare the hell out of us. Not with ghosts or costume but with unpredictable human nature. A winner (128 min.). (KV [CAPH, A

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of [illegible] reveal the architecture, legends, history and most importantly mysteries [illegible] Egyptian civilization. (CSC)

The Neverending Story Children's [illegible] fantasy by Wolfgang Petersen.

Our Family Wedding Forest Whitaker goes slumming in a [illegible] with Lance Gross as an African-American young man planning to marry his Mexican-American fiancée played by America Ferrera. Naturally, [illegible] dads Whitaker and Carlos Mencia object, and the [illegible] gets [illegible]. Sample, the goat that ate the Viagra at the wedding. (Director Famuyiwa) [illegible] the screenplay with Malcolm Spellman and Wayne Conley) [illegible] that Whitaker gets most of the big scenes but Regina King, as that character's [illegible] lover, gets her share as well. Of course, both families are rich. (101 min.) (LOC, [illegible])

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief Filmmaker Chris Columbus brings ancient Greek mythology into a contemporary American [illegible] rite-of-passage fantasy planning around New York City teen Percy, [illegible] (Logan Lerman). Swamp Percy, planning of his mortal mother (Catherine Keener) and the god Poseidon (Kevin McKidd). [illegible] gifted with magical powers and it's up to him, with help from fellow demi-gods Alexandra Daddario (daughter of Athena) and goat-legged satyr Brandon T. Jackson, to get out [illegible] Zeus' stolen lightning bolt, and in [illegible]. The [illegible] is nothing short of [illegible] for Pierce Brosnan (Chiron), Sean Bean (Zeus), [illegible] (Persephone) and [illegible] as Percy's [illegible] mortal stepdad, but the grand prize goes to Uma Thurman as [illegible] Medusa. It's also a [illegible] to see Steve Coogan in hell. Craig Titley adapted the screenplay from Rick Riordan's young-adult novel. (113 min.) ([illegible])

Pirate Radio For anyone who can never get enough '60s rock on the soundtrack, the film [illegible] of the year. But practically anyone [illegible] and a laugh in the annals of a crew of deejays (Rhys Ifans, [illegible]) [illegible] the Kinks, the Who, Traggs, Turtles, Hollies, [illegible], Jeff Beck, Dusty Springfield, et al. to English listeners from a ship anchored in the North Sea. Its [illegible] are Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rhys Ifans, the Highy Nick Frost, and [illegible] [illegible] the deejays, with a [illegible] Kenneth [illegible] as the square government [illegible] to shut them down, and Emma Thompson as [illegible]. It's a [illegible] summer [illegible] on the high seas, [illegible] with infectious glee by [illegible] Curtis (*Love Actually*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) from his own screenplay. [illegible] (135 min.) (KV) [illegible]

A Prophet (Un prophète) First-rate crime picture stars actor Tahar Rahim as Malik, a nineteen-year-old, half French, half Arab petty offender with [illegible] in a French prison and [illegible] make split-second decisions in order to survive. Malik's progress through the underworld is vividly [illegible] by director Jacques Audiard (*The Beat that My Heart Skipped*), with a screenplay he wrote with Thomas Bidegain, adapted from a script by Abdel Raouf Dafri and Nicolas Peufaillit. A [illegible] of multi-cult criminal life in the South of France, Malik's [illegible] take him from the Corsican mafia (with [illegible] [illegible]) to Arab and Italian gang

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ahort a Marseille. all gleefully double-crossing each other in the Bogie finale. Compares favorably to the classic policiers of Jean-Pierre Melville, with touches of Vernon Fassbender's Fassbinder and the Italian Gomorra. Cold as lunch meat (156 min.). (KV,CIE

Red Riding Trilogy Adapted from David Peace's quartet of novels on the dark underside of the Northern English county of Yorkshire, these three interlocking detective stories follow the investigation, and back up, into the Yorkshire Ripper murders in the 1970s and '80s, when a series of young women and girls were kidnapped, tortured and murdered — and the local police, press, and business establishments did their best to cover it all up. Red Riding: 1974 directed by Julian Jarrold stars Andrew Garfield as an ambitious newspaper reporter, and Riding: 1980 by director James Marsh focuses on a police inspector (Paddy Considine) who can't make any headway. Anand Tucker's 1983 installment wraps the whole sordid mess up in a bloody burlap bag. There are weak spots, but the cumulative effect is of a vast tapestry of terror, social corruption targeting anyone who isn't a local good old boy. Such rottenness is strangely engrossing, disquietingly. Adapted by Tony Grisoni. Also with Sean Bean, Jim Carter, Mark Addy, and David Morrissey. (1974: 105 min. 1980: 95 min. 1983: 104 min.) (KV)

Remember Me Romance featuring a student who's and dealing with family tragedy. Directed by Allen Coulter, starring Robert Pattinson. ATC BL, BC, BP, CEPH, CUC, CRC, RA, RH, JL, UAB

Repo Men Futuristic thriller featuring Jude Law, Forest Whitaker, and Liev Schreiber. Directed by Miguel Sapochnik. BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CK, CBC, CN, CCC, GL, S, RA, RH, JL, UAB, WMS

The Runaways Directed by Floria Sigismondi, this biopic about the pioneering girl-rock Runaways is loaded with clichés — the raw beginnings, the fire to fame, the flameout as the members fall prey to drugs, celebrity, and egomania. But it also wades into the tangled gender politics surrounding the band, which unsettled the rock establishment with a pathway as bold as any man's but was forever manufactured by a cynical male manager named Kim Fowley. However, this contradiction is heightened by the fact that Michael Shannon (Revolutionary Road) boosts his every scene as the sybaritic opening Fowley while Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning often fade into the 70s wallpaper as guitarist Joan Jett and front woman Cherie Currie. Making her feature debut, Sigismondi conjures up a Joseph, the director who that's utterly persuasive; the script is based on Cherie Currie's autobiography, which boosted the extraneous story line about her ... BRC100 ... CEPH, CN, CUC, CAPH, ... UAB

She's Out of My League Romance comedy about an ordinary guy dating his dream girl. Directed by Jim Field Smith. ATC, BS, BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CK, CUC, CN, CLC, CRC, RA, RH, JL, RCE, UAB

Shutter Island Leaving Martin Scorsese about a silly psychological thriller like this is like inviting a famous chef over to boil some hot dogs and heat a can of baked beans. US marshals Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo take a ferry out to a gruesome mental institution on the title island in the stormy waters off Boston to investigate one mystery, and they end up facing several others, sinister doctors Ben Kingsley and Max von Sydow, a missing patient (Patricia Clarkson or Emily Mortimer, take your pick), gruesome-looking guards, the DiCaprio character's bad dreams about his lost family and his wartime experiences, etc. He sees more people. This simmering stew of routine dread/drama, from the novel by Dennis Lehane of Mystic River fame, is nowhere near as well constructed as that drama, and the screenplay adaptation by Laeta Kalogridis is no help at all. Worse than that, we can tell that Scorsese's heart just isn't in it. Costarring Jackie Earle Haley and Ted Levine. Miss this boat (138 min.) (KV) BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CN, CUC, CA, RA, RH

Solomon The story of everyone's favorite ... and of ... CSC

To Be an Astronaut ... what it takes? Take a ... NASA for an ... hands-on view of everything from ... to lift-off (41 min.) CSC

Up in the Air George Clooney once again shines as a slick, corporate flyer with a hidden conscience. Here, the director (Juno) ... Clooney as "termination facilitator" Ryan Bingham, who endlessly jets in and out American towns like Tulsa and Wichita, firing redundant employees by the hundreds and ... his one true passion ... racking up dozens of frequent-flyer miles. To his trust, he meets a newly minted business-school piranha named Alex (Anna Kendrick) in a ... and feels sorry for her. And maybe for himself. The screenplay, by Reitman and Sheldon Turner from Walter Kirn's novel, sums up some of the most famous truths of the 21st century (so far) and a ... of passion, witty ... and ... laugh at them. Good job. With Vera Farmiga as a frequent shopper (109 min.) (KV) CT, RH

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

A Matter of Life and Death (104 min., 1946). Life, Death, and Technicolor: A Tribute to Jack Cardiff (PFA, 7:00)

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Eva (112 min., 1962). Joseph Losey: Pictures of Provocation (PFA, 7:00)

Time Without Pity (85 min., 1957). Joseph Losey: Pictures of Provocation (PFA, 9:20)

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

The Walls (98 min., 2005). Saturday Afternoon at the Movies (Berkeley Public Library, Claremont Branch, 3:00)

Uncle Vanya (104 min., 1970). Celebrating Chekhov (PFA, 6:30)

Black Narcissus (100 min., 1947). Life, Death, and Technicolor: A Tribute to Jack Cardiff (PFA, 8:35)

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Ward No. 6 (83 min., 2009). Celebrating Chekhov (PFA, 4:00)

Accident (105 min., 1967). Joseph Losey: Pictures of Provocation (PFA, 5:45)

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Wiley and Friends (75 min., 1963-71). What's It All Mean: Films by William T. Wiley and Friends (PFA, 7:30)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Portraits (68 min., 1988-92). Private Lives: The Films of Alain Cavalier (PFA, 7:00)

BEST OF BAY ON DISPLAY AT SXSW

The Spit Brothers, Mistah F.A.B., and Eprom among the Austin music festival's highlights.

By David Downs

Mistah F.A.B. David Downs

Muse, the Black Keys, Nas, Damian Marley, Stone Temple Pilots, and Hole might have been some of the biggest names in Austin at this year's South by Southwest music festival. But celebrity bands belie the point of the gargantuan, 1,700-band showcase, which included roughly 44 Bay Area bands — and that was just the ones playing official shows. The annual four-day debauchery functions as the nation's music trade show, where thousands of writers and industry types can sample breaking acts and see if buzz bands can deliver while randomly discovering a new favorite act.

The San Francisco instrumental electronic duo known as the Spit Brothers opened up SXSW on Wednesday with a head-nodding blast of bass, beats, and reverbed-out brass. Comprised of Berklee College of Music graduates Bakir and Dubsworth, the Spit Brothers take a jazzier approach to dubstep — a reggae-inspired form of electronic music — by using live trumpet and bass to augment the standard kit of MacBook Pros and mixers. And it totally works. The hour-long set didn't draw the crowds seen over at A-list Stubbs — where Sharon Jones and DJ Danger Mouse were de facto headliners of the town. But the lack of lines and ample room to dance made the Spit Brothers a priceless antidote to a hectic, crowded first day. The duo says they'll be touring hard in 2010, and are offering a free mix for download (http://soundcloud.com/bakir/sb-2010-mix).

Meanwhile, San Francisco-based producer Kush Arora and New York's Nate Mars — two top names in the tight-knit electronic dance music scene — teamed up with LA vocalist Jahdan to play their first show ever as the Dredd Bass Soundsystem. While Kush and Mars manned the laptops, cuing up insanely deep dubstep bass lines and instrumentals, Jahdan stalked the crowd, spitting classic reggae rhymes and dancing with the heads who came from all across the country to check out the set. The Dredd Bass Soundsystem is a follow-up to Kush's *Dredd Bass Chronicles* project of 2009, and the trio is shopping an LP to be released this year.

Some of the sickest, most twisted and broken beats emanated from San Francisco producer Eprom, who shredded ears inside the subterranean venue Barcelona using just an Akai MPC and a MacBook. The MPC is a staple instrument for hip-hop and electronic music, a big boxy bank of buttons that producers tap like an oversized keyboard. Each button fires a preset sample when pressed, allowing users to improvise all types of live mixes. Eprom is computer jargon for "erasable programmable read-only memory," putting the young artist clearly inside the experimental electronic camp as he manipulated slow beats that bleeped and blooped beyond repair, oscillating through cacophony to complex harmony and back.

Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop turned into the perfect venue Thursday for San Francisco's indie rockers, Rogue Wave. Warm midday light streamed down through big bay windows onto the quintet during its hour-long afternoon set as the band played new songs from just-released album *Permalight*. The album took a battering on Pitchfork with a 5.1 out of 10 rating, and you can see where critics might be irked over smiling Zach Rogue and his soft and breathy vocals, which fit snugly into three- and four-part harmonies over loud, clean guitar. Whatever, the kids liked it. The vocal harmonies and pop structure had Rogue Wave sounding like some roughed-up Beach Boys, and they even went the anthemic route with a song that could have easily been the melody of Scorpions' "Rock You Like A Hurricane," with just a touch of grunge and Blue Oyster Cult.

Two-dollar pints of Dos Equis and ample sunshine on the rooftop of a bar named Cheers accompanied the short but refreshing set from San Francisco rockers the Mother Hips. The grizzled, blue-collar four-piece traverses territory commonly ceded to the Rolling Stones, Dire Straits, and Tom Petty, yet the band remains untouchable. With twenty years under their belt and about a dozen studio and live albums, the most recent being 2009's *Pacific Dust*, the Hips are masters of meting out bluesy, rootsy Southern rock-inspired ditties like "Magazine." Tim Bluhm solos are so confident while fellow guitarist/vocalist Greg Loiacono and bassist Paul Hoaglin seemed like stoic hardliners laying down interlocking grooves. Drummer John Hofer is a straightaway old-school basher. Full of die-hard fans, the free show on the small rooftop of a dingy shot bar represented the best of Austin: no covers, no lines, sunny skies and some rock.

Thursday night, downtown Austin heaved with bodies jostling for position at the next free buzz show. Outside club Red 7, the $8 cover deterred the music-saturated crowd and thinned the audience for Oakland modern rock act the Heavenly States. Which is a shame, because the States debuted some bombastic and haunted new material from an upcoming EP. Veterans of grueling road trips to Austin, the States flew to SXSW this year and were the better for it. Charismatic lead singer Ted Nesseth seems to have found an Isaac Brock-like warble during Modest Mouse-esque segments of States material, and was magnetic on songs off of 2008's *Deluder*. Genevieve Gagon rocked her fiddle to great effect, evoking Titus Andronicus, their sonic cousins from New Jersey. Drummer Jeremy Gagon seems to have gotten progressively better over the last few years in proportion to his hair's wildness, and bassist Masanori Christianson is ever the rhythmic Gibraltar.

Who knew Oakland's Mistah F.A.B. would be the most charismatic performer in a town full of more than 1,700 of them? Three years after hyphy failed to detonate, sweat pouring from his face, stripped down to his white T-shirt, big gold "FAB" chain swinging from his neck, the veteran Bay Area all-star had all of Klub Krucial going stupid, going dumb, and getting quite hyphy Thursday night. Speaking in slang bordering on glossolalia, dancing as hard as the punk kids mosh, F.A.B. created an enthusiasm exploding from the 200 or so fans that a Southern Baptist revival couldn't compete with. East Coast, West Coast, the Midwest and the South had a de facto rap convention up in the Klub, with Philadelphia rapper Freeway jumping in on San Francisco's the Jacka's set, and Oakland's the Pack networking like lil executives.

But it was F.A.B.'s deeply grateful, unifying set — which spanned Notorious B.I.G.'s "Juicy" to Mac Dre's "Thizzle Dance" — that owned the night. He could've just sat back and handled the transitions between the unapologetic covers. Instead, he freestyled and worked the crowd up so hard he had to be cut off mid-song by the promoter. F.A.B. had the audience taunting "Kick me out" to the venue operators as he cut into the Pack's 1 a.m. set time. The four-man Berkeley *show* — still rocking some rather dusty pairs of "Vans" — mopped up as best they could, but F.A.B. had already put it all out there.

Friday night, things got a little hardcore. The crowd tripled with the weekend rush and quadrupled in drunkenness, perfectly matching the vibe inside Encore. There, a band named Speedwolf was drinking from the audience's beers while ferociously covering Venom inside the Aquarius Records showcase.

Independent Oakland label Anticon continued its string of annual showcases at SXSW with a small party at Barbarella Friday night. Amid a lineup that included Dosh and Themselves, Georgia's Serengeti debuted new material: dense verbal flow over trippy breakbeat and sparse instrumentals — like a Southern Themselves — with that talkative focus on relationships and family over braggadocio and bling.

Subdued San Francisco New Wave act Tamaryn on Friday was a far cry from Mistah F.A.B. in the same building the night before. The San Francisco/New York duo channels the Cure and the Smiths right down to the massive black hairdos; its songs are full of aching, processed guitars and cooing vocals. Single "Mild Confusion" came out drenched in reverb and smoke, as lead singer Tamaryn writhed in front of the mic. Guitarist Rex John Shelverton coolly set off peals of trebly distortion, warbling slightly with expert use of the tremolo arm. None of the band smiled or thanked the crowd or interacted at all, and it was all adorably emo. Its debut LP on label Mexican Summer is coming soon. ●

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FRINGE EXCELLER

Imaad Wasif remains content at the mainstream's edges.

By Janet Keene

Imaad Wasif may be the last underground American rock star left in our media-saturated moment. Sure, he's the touring guitarist for the still-white-hot Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and even co-wrote and performed a number of songs with the band's frontwoman Karen O for the *Where the Wild Things Are* soundtrack. Despite such relatively high-profile gigs, the name Imaad Wasif is perhaps only familiar to hardcore readers of, say, Pitchfork. That will change as the singer/guitarist joins Dead Meadow for an extensive musical journey across the United States this month.

It will change because of the massive, cosmic-desert-country-folk rock punch of his latest album *The Voidist*, released late last year by Tee Pee Records. Bristling with galloping rhythms, fuzz-guitar leads, and mystical lyrics detailing the yearning for oneness — with a lover, the whole world — *The Voidist* stands as the top psychedelic-rock effort of the last decade. For instance, songs like the pulsing "The Redeemer," with its interstellar-overdriving buildup and collapse, will make you reach for a cigarette afterward. Or consider "Fangs," which runs away the distance between Black Sabbath and Neil Young & Crazy Horse thanks to Wasif's haunting falsetto and an arsenal of dark, distorted riffing.

However, Wasif, who claimed an Oakland residence for a year, insists he's more influenced by the East Indian classical music that he grew up listening to — particularly ragas, a cluster of five or more musical notes that shape melodies.

"Ragas don't necessarily function in the same way as Western music," Wasif explained during a recent phone interview. "I love it all, and yet I feel very much torn between my love for both musics. I know that I write rock or folk music, but I just don't conceive of it that way. It's just what's most natural to me."

Being caught between two worlds is an ongoing and eternal predicament for Wasif, and it overlaps in all areas of his life. Having grown up a bit isolated from others as an Indian kid in Palm Springs, he always found it easy to work as a lone-wolf artist. His eponymous 2006 solo debut on Kill Rock Stars — a minimalist acoustic folk effort — cemented that image, especially with the cover photo: Wasif pulling a sheet of paper from an old Underwood typewriter with lyric sheets taped to the apartment wall behind him.

Still, he's a constant collaborator, working with everyone from Karen O to Sebadoh founder/Dinosaur Jr. bassist Lou Barlow. Wasif has been in a band in one form or another since his teens, and his two previous indie-rock groups — lowercase and alaska! — were acclaimed even though they were shunned by Eighties post-punk icons SST Records.

"Sometimes, when you've worked alone for a length of time, it's necessary to switch gears," he said. "You know, otherwise, the walls start getting higher and higher and you can't climb your way out or see anything. You become too introspective. A great collaboration comes through knowing a person on a different level or having played music with him. You can't just walk into a room with a stranger and write anything meaningful."

Imaad Wasif

Like the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Dead Meadow is a critical darling, yet Wasif, who opened for Jack White's Raconteurs at one point, says he's not part of an indie-rock clique. "I'm just always crossing paths with great and well-known musicians," he said. "I don't really have a crowd that I fall in with. I also lived in San Francisco for a while, and the scene was very self-supporting. I've met a wide range of musicians, and I hope to go on growing musically. I want to explore all these different avenues."

These avenues continue to expand and lead to new if somewhat obscure terrain. Wasif enjoyed a well-attended and positively reviewed residency last month at Silver Lake's Spaceland. Plus, the DVD of *Where the Wild Things Are* dropped a few weeks ago. But Wasif isn't interested in all that. He'd rather talk typewriters.

"Something about that machine feels like an extension of my writing," he said of his process, which involves wallpapering his room with lyrics. "The editing is where a typewriter really helps. So much of it comes from a romantic view of antiquated items. People like Henry Miller and William Burroughs write really lovingly about typewriters. You know, I always thought I was going to be a writer."

Speaking of antiquated, does Wasif stay up late shedding a tear for the dying record industry that has yet to make him famous?

"Everyone's freaked out about where the industry is going," he admitted. "I'm so far outside of that now. I just write, record, and put out music in any way I can. I don't know if you could ever really rely on anyone else but yourself. Keeping the momentum going, staying on top of the music that is coming out of me, is my focus." ■

Show Details

Imaad Wasif plays with Dead Meadow and Upside Down (members of Spindrift) at the Great American Music Hall (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Mar. 27, 8 p.m., $15. GAMH.com

To share this story, go to: ebx.by/imaadwasif

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ECHO CHAMBER

Decades of influences reverberate on the Morning Benders' new album *Big Echo*

By Tessa Stuart

The Morning Benders.

From the sound of the needle dragging on the opening track, "Excuses," it's clear that the Morning Benders' new album *Big Echo* is all about nuance. Talking to Chris Chu, the band's lead singer, it becomes apparent why: form follows function. Chu speaks carefully — he pauses before answering a question and shies away from making bold or sweeping statements. For example, he cautioned at putting too much emphasis on any of the band's recent success. "Excuses" was picked as a best new track by Pitchfork, and in February, according to a web site that aggregates such statistics, the Morning Benders was the most blogged about band on the Internet.

"It's definitely been crazy at times," said Chu about the last few months. Then he switched the conversation to talk about how proud he has been of the fan base's role in their success: "We really only put out two or three things for people to see with hopes that every one of those things would lead people back to the record. What was most amazing to me, and just very encouraging, was to see people take ownership over those things and start spreading them themselves."

One of the releases Chu refers to is a video of the band performing "Excuses" with their friends at Different Fur Studios in the Mission district. Chu describes the exercise as inspired by stories of vintage Phil Spector recording sessions — the producer would pile multiple drummers, bassists, and vocalists into a room to create a "wall of sound" that became a hallmark of pop music in the Sixties. Among the faces in the video, billed as the Morning Benders and the Echo Chamber Orchestra, are some familiar Bay Area musicians: Chris Owens of Girls, John Vanderslice, Gram Lebron (formerly of Rogue Wave, presently of Port O'Brien), and the Mumlers. The video went viral shortly after its release, quickly racking up more than 100,000 views, and showing up on music blogs around the web.

There's no question that a large share of the Bender's support is rooted, like the band itself, in the Bay Area. The Morning Benders first formed in 2005 while three of the members were undergraduates at UC Berkeley (the fourth member, Joe, is Chris' younger brother and current Cal student). They've certainly earned their success. After cutting their first record in 2007, the band opened for Grizzly Bear, the Kooks, Death Cab for Cutie, and Ra Ra Riot and appeared at a slew of music festivals (Noise Pop in '08 and '09, and Outside Lands last year). They embarked on their first headlining tour after the release of *Big Echo* at the beginning of March.

It's not just the sound of vinyl static on the band's sophomore effort that infuses the record with a distinct sense of time and place — the band's surf-pop vocal harmonies frequently invite comparisons to the Beach Boys. The album was recorded and tracked in California, then Chu holed up in a church in New York with Grizzly Bear's Chris Taylor to mix the thing. "What started as just kind of mixing the record turned into something that was a little more than that," Chu said. "We ended up like kind of crafting the sound of the record in a lot of ways and kind of re-doing some sound and stuff." The result is lovely — songs that slosh and creep and bounce around you in an inexplicably visceral way.

And they reverberate in more ways than one, hence the album title, *Big Echo*. Chu says the album and title were inspired by "all this music that we loved from the Sixties and Seventies and Eighties and Nineties and recent stuff and it's all kind of thrown together in like an echo chamber or something and you hear how it all combines and morphs in this, hopefully unique special thing." Thrown along with them are sounds collected from different places and interwoven throughout the album. It's these subtleties that Chu says give the recordings "a lot more character, and they're a lot more charming because of that — you can listen to it over and over and kind of find those new things." At the same time, there are some challenges reinterpreting them for a live performance. "In a live setting you really want to catch people's attention," said Chu. "We ended up making a lot of things more extreme live I think. The quiet parts are stripped down and then the loud parts are even louder and noisier."

The band will be in San Francisco on March 30 playing at the Independent, supported by the Miniature Tigers and the Mumlers, and there is a long list of things Chu would like to do in the less-than-a-day of spare time he'll have back in the Bay. He wants to see the cat he's left behind (Zoe), grab a bite at Zaki Kebab House in Albany (his endorsement of the restaurant was issued with more force than any other statement in our conversation. "It's really, really good," he said. "Kind of incredible, actually."), and browse the racks at Amoeba (a gift certificate is burning a hole in his pocket).

And reunite with some friends. The same friends from the "Excuses" video? Maybe onstage at the Independent? Chu wouldn't say so in as many words. "I don't want to say anything yet, but we are trying to do something special for that show. So." ●

Show Details

The Morning Benders play the Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on Tuesday, Mar. 30, 8 p.m. $15. TheIndependentSF.com

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/morningbenders

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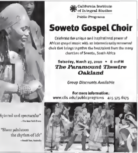

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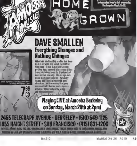

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FAR AFIELD

Classic rock return, Americana kirtan, and sacred a cappella.

Field Music

Field Music

If some intrepid youths tapped into the influence of a parent's or older sibling's record collection whose glory days were the 1970s up to say '76 the inspiration might result in a band such as Field Music. Not the entire decade's styles, mind you, but chiefly harmony-oriented rock (Badfinger, Beach Boys, pre-disco Bee Gees), progressive (or prog) rock (Pink Floyd, Strawbs), and the rare few then that combined the two (Electric Light Orchestra, Queen, 10cc).

On its third album, the UK's Field Music synthesizes the hallmarks of each style with great flair without ever being slavish. Its vocal harmonies are attractive, sturdy, and just-short-of-sugary dulcet. Its melodies have an ebb-and-flow to them, are attractive though slightly angular and twisty, frequently assuming a majestic quality that stops just short of grandiosity. In many ways, *Field Music* recalls the works of fellow travelers the Decemberists. But where the 'rists are baroque, Field Music is more down-to-earth, more enamored of bracing, classic rock 'n' roll clangor. Note the stark, loping, blues-rock motif driving "Each Time Is a New Time" and the nearly power-pop crunch of "Effortlessly." With its gentle acoustic guitar and percussion intro and idyllic, almost breezy chorus, "Choosing Numbers" is virtually a thinking person's anthem for Endless Summer.

Without a trace of nostalgia or retro affectation, Field Music is carrying on the tradition of beauty, bright pop/rock that's unafraid to wear its heart on its sleeve, sidestepping ostentation, embracing concision. Very fine stuff. (Memphis Industries)

— Mark Keresman

Field Music plays Cafe du Nord (2170 Market St., San Francisco) on Friday, Mar. 26, 9:30 p.m., $12. CafeduNord.com

Krishna Das

Heart as Wide as the World

When he attended a lecture by Ram Dass in the late Sixties, Krishna Das was an aspiring rock star working a day job. But the lecture changed his life. He began investigating Indian spirituality, visited Maharaji in India for two years, and started singing kirtan, a devotional music that aims to bring listeners in closer contact with the heart's deep core.

Das has a voice that was made for kirtan — a low, velvety baritone with a warm, comforting tone that insinuates itself into your heart and mind. He's relaxed without being too new agey and his music blends traditional Indian modes with American folk, blues, and country to forge a style that easily bridges cultures and continents. On *Heart as Wide as the World* Das briefly returns to the rock of his youth, sort of. "Narayana/For Your Love" incorporates the lyrics and melody of the Yardbird's hit of the same name, but the arrangement takes the tune to the ashram with the soaring harmonies of the Kosmic Kirtan Posse of New York, the choir that backs Das on the album. The lyrics are probably the most articulate that Das has sung since starting out on his spiritual path, and while there's a tongue-in-cheek quality to the juxtaposition, it doesn't sound like this is a conscious effort to get a hit. The rest of the album is vintage Das: tranquil, serene music with the rough edges smoothed off, but possessing enough rhythmic force to keep pulling you into its mesmerizing spell. (NoTone/Nettwerk)

— j. poet

Krishna Das performs at the Warfield (982 Market St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Mar. 28, 7:30 p.m., $32.25. TheWarfieldTheatre.com

Soweto Gospel Choir

Grace

Whether you have an appreciation for history or not, the very *first* instrument was likely the human voice, and, in some instances, voices alone are more than sufficient for a memorable musical experience. The Soweto Gospel Choir is a thirty plus-member choral group from South Africa and most of *Grace*, its fifth album for the Shanachie label, is a cappella — that is, voices without instrumental accompaniment.

The choir's subject matter is indeed sacred and it draws upon several traditions for songs of faith: the traditional and contemporary South African and Southern African-American, European Roman Catholic, and Western pop-rock with spiritual proclivities. But even an agnostic or a confirmed heathen will likely derive some enjoyment here. On original songs and those of South African origin, the opulent and soulful blending of the choir's co-ed voices and the way they ride the rhythms is both dazzling and exhilarating. "Ave Maria" and "Calvary" feature an immaculate classical tone (in the Western European sense) and heartrending conviction. (We are talking about faith here, after all.) Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" gets a spacious, tenderly pensive re-casting (accented by a gently lamenting saxophone) with the chorus of the Four Tops' "Still Water (Love)" interspersed throughout.

The Soweto Gospel Choir balances spiritual fervor with humble elegance, the jubilation for today with the longing and hope for tomorrow. (Shanachie)

— Mark Keresman

The Soweto Gospel Choir performs Saturday, Mar. 27, at the Paramount Theatre (2025 Broadway, Oakland), 8 p.m., $25-$65. ParamountTheatre.com

To share this story, go to: ebx.by/ot5

My piano ate the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle

Tiny Little Blackouts

Idea of Alice

It's almost scary how much Tiny Little Blackouts sound like Sarah McLachlan. The voice isn't as ethereal as McLachlan's, but the overall feel is similar. The influence of other classic female singer-songwriters is in evidence on *Idea of Alice*, too. With a sound that's mostly pop but a little folksy, it's an interesting album, gentle and soothing in style but with unexpectedly dark lyrics. (robot123 Records)

At the Rockit Room (406 Clement St., San Francisco) on March 31, 9 p.m., $5.

Ken Flagg

The End of Suffering

The End of Suffering is an odd album. With songs that range in style from piano based pop to Sixties rock to an almost country-style folk, it's hard to figure out what Flagg was going for. It's not unpleasant, though — the album has a sort of old-school charm to it. (Incurable Eclectic Records)

Octamatt

Please Betty

Please Betty is full of old-school country songs that are competently enough performed, but not particularly exciting or original. It would be a perfect musical accompaniment while staring into a beer and feeling sorry for yourself, though. (Blazoid Records)

Antoquo

My piano ate the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle

Latin jazz meets jam band on *My piano ate the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle*. Even those who don't like this kind of music may be attracted to its upbeat, charming, and cleverly witty songs. Antoquo would make a great party soundtrack — its music brings a smile to your face, and should get even the grouchiest hater out on the dance floor. (Ganger Productions)

At Cafe du Nord (2170 Market St., San Francisco) on March 27, 9:30 p.m., $10.

Bay Area bands: show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*. To share this story, go to: ebx.by/licks

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Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings: tickets go on sale Saturday March 26 at 10 am. Thu., May 27, 9 p.m., the The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.

Jakob Dylan and Three Legs: tickets go on sale Sunday March 28 at 10 am, Wed., May 12, 8 p.m., $25-$29, The Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St., San Francisco.

Weezer: tickets go on sale Sunday March 28 at 11 am, Tue., June 15, 9 p.m., the The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.

THURSDAY 25

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

A Celebration of Hawaiian Music featuring George Kahumoku, Kenki Kahumoku, Dennis Kamakahi, & David Kamakahi, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $22

Flamenco Sessions w/ Rosanna Carrillo, Caffe Trieste, 8 pm, free

Johnie w/ Co-Van Gogh, Jolivenez, 8 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Mine swing jam, King Tom Cultural Intersection, 6:30-8 pm, free

Thursday Night Live: rotating live bands, Zoo's Bistro, 8-10 pm, free

Rock & Pop

James Blondie & Blonde w/ Oklahoma, Swordfishes, Starry Plough, 9 pm, $7

Brothers Brothers Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $24.50-$26.50

Nathan Profundities Bosbelo's, 10 pm, free

The Spaceandme Bar's Irish Sports Bar, 10 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Boom Tijuas La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $12-$15

Unplugged live R&B, soul, & jazz/flamenco plus this after 11 p.m., Club Anton, 8 pm, $15-$20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Jam Session Atlas Cafe, 8-11 pm, free

Romance Blue Rights Band w/ Grantsley Bluegrass, The Independent, 8 pm, $13-$15

Phil Band Biscuits & Blues, 8 pm, $15

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Revolutionaries' Magik*Magik String Quintet w/ Gabriel Halloran with Magik Magik String Quintet, Swedish American Hall, 7:30 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Dance Records Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

Betty Fu Hilton San Francisco Financial District, 8-11 pm, free

Records Fourge & the Ensemble French & American jazz standards, Le Colonial, 7:30-10 pm, free

Classic Hoggart Rrazz Room, 8 pm, $na

Music at Large Whispers The Rights of Spring Velma's, 8 pm, $5-$10

Poppy Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $20-$32

Uptown ride Blues The Music Store, 9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

AFI w/ Sad Band, Bonds Gay Slim's, 8 pm, $30

Al Gooda w/ Wonder Bread & Ben Patnott, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $6

Cymbals Eat Guitars w/ Boat to Heaven, Freelance Whales, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $10

Dogger w/ Sandalled, Slow Park, Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $8

Gone Gone w/ Red Cloud, The Sam Axl, Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $10

The Dome w/ Haj Lunch, Silver Skies, Thee Parkside, 9 pm, $6

Gundies Sarrow w/ The Snowland, Greg Ashley, Rickshaw Stop, 8 pm, $13

Healing Bell Lazzo for Mystel Joan's Yola Hard Revolutions Cambus Lounge, 8 pm, $5-$11

Healing Band w/ Revolutionsdaites, Amer's, 9 pm, $5-$8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Dome 111 Minna, 9 pm, $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Flamenco Thursdays Cornell Jaripche presents classic & dance w/ traditional flamenco performers, Peña Pachamama, 8 pm, $12

FRIDAY 26

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Mirl Rue 52 Theater, 8 pm, $10

The P-Pi Bowbees, 10 pm, free

Easth Temple Beth Kanelan, 8 pm, free

Classical & Opera

Dance Dance Festival St. John's Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm, $12, $7 students & seniors

26070 Hiliner Piano Piedmont Piano Company, 8 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Janes Blonde Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, free

Dance Romance Trio Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Air a AM Fox Blonde, 8 pm, $37.50

Beerjames w/ Snowland, Fears Hell, & more, Tolland Alibis Sportshouse, 8 pm, $7

Bill Bonds & Peter Bowden w/ Sari Blonde & Hudson Revue, Ethink, & Beast of Ahead, 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8 pm, free

The Lamnbs Pet Restaurant, 8 pm, free

Flamenco Dub w/ Rubbish Influence, Stork Club, 9 pm, free

Gone Fables w/ Mother Elbiny, Plough, 9:30 pm, $10

Fuzz and his Fuzz w/ Sharman Ant, The Damp, Little Assure, Rebounds, & Cinder Everybody, 924 Gilman, 8 pm, free

John Mayer w/ Michael Franti & Spearhead, HP Pavilion, 7 pm, $56-$76

Ray Romance & Roy Rogers Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $24.50-$26.50

Sam Fun & Higher Good w/ Sweet Blonde, Big Eagle, Uptown, 9 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

About w/ The Outdiminution, Digital Moolys, & more, Boards on Telegraph, 9 pm, $10-$13

Ruthie Foe w/ Kev Choice, Shotluck Roots Low, 9 pm, $15-$18

Joey Kennedy 35 Revolutions Barrels Shop & Cafe, 8:30 pm, free

Blonde Dub Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Revolutions w/ Dos Four, Dr. Roger Max, & DJ Kanelan, The New Parish, 9 pm, $10-$12

Gone, Barelon w/ DJ Cultural Aztlanese, 9:30 pm, $10-$12

Barelon Barelon La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $12-$15

Reggae Party DJ Sweet Finger spinning Calypso, R&B and Reggae, w/ Mama Blues Sound and other rotating performers and DJs, Sweet Fingers, 9 pm.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Band: Eden s Big Birthday Bash Blondie Park Cafe, 7:30 pm, $8-$10

Steve Lucky & The Rhumba Bums Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $20

Classical & Opera

Opera Club of San Francisco performing music by Copland, Gershwin, Stravinsky & more, Herbst Theatre, 7 pm, $18-$58

Gospel & Vocal

Revolutions in Parts Herbst Blonde, 5:30 pm, $30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Records Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

Betty Fu Hilton San Francisco Financial District, 8-11 pm, free

Joyce Band & Barelon Clarkson's Nights Restaurante, 9 pm-midnight, free

Dance Haggart Rrazz Room, 8 pm, free

Ruben Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $20-$32

Rock & Pop

7 Degree ABC w/ Metis, Amer's, 8 pm, $5-$8

Shahmanchi Amoeba Music, 6 pm, free

Courtbangers w/ Spinning Rooms & the Cerebon, The Annexes, Warfield Center, 9:30 pm, $1

The Fall Of Troy w/ Foxy On The Street, Twin Atlantic, Slim's, 7:30 pm, $14-$16

Band Music w/ The Old-Fashioned Way, Sandal, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 pm, $12

Hammerfall w/ Powerglove, The Balbans, The Regency Center, 8 pm, $25-$30

Japan Nite 2010 w/ Red Records Vacuum, Sarataka Chaimers, & Jabbones, The Independent, 8 pm, $15

Life In 24 Motion w/ Loaded Northern, Mysmez, El Rio, 9 pm, $5

The Lee Barelon w/ Tender Tender The Barr Brothers, Bone Mansion Music Hall, 9 pm, $15

Midnight Bowlers w/ Get Bandt My Life In Black And White, & Boolight, Thee Parkside, 9:30 pm, $7

The Mivers Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free

The Pepper Bowlers w/ Vienna Teng, Moe Valley Ministry, 8:15 pm, $15-$18

Stew Trucks w/ Mezzanine, Rikard, 9 pm, $5-$8

The Jeremy Comb Hobbit Blues w/ Bison City Fell, The Stew Away, & Jeff St. John, Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $10

Think About Life w/ The Heavenly States, Kill Me!, Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $10

Vaginal Records Spring Fest featuring Smack on Hanes, featuring & Wattas, Pound Off Pete's, 9 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Para Blonde Romance La Bond, 8 pm, $5

Underground Foundations featuring Z-Man, Dregs One, & Dj Vlastable, Club Six, 9 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Xokam featuring Bomstar, Kataya, Cada, 10 pm, $10

SATURDAY 27

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Mangoes House Jewish House Festival Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $20.50-$31.50

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PICKS

Chali 2Na

Formerly the emcee for famed Los Angeles groups Ozomatli and Jurassic 5, **Chali 2na** has one of the most distinctive voices in hip-hop. He'd be a "basso" if hip-hop used such classifications: velvety-voiced, with a sermonic cadence and deep vocal intonation. He added texture to such classics as "Concrete Schoolyard" and "Ya Know Something," and ultimately went on to a successful solo career. Chali 2na reintroduced himself to fans with last year's *Fish Outta Water*, his official post-Jurassic debut. He'll take the **Shattuck Down Low** (2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) this Friday, Mar. 26, sharing the stage with local MC **Mikey Choice**, plus a live [illegible] the groove going. 9 p.m. $15–$18. ShattuckDownLow.com — *Rachel Swan*

Jane Chapman

It's one of those weeks where at least one major player, violinist Julia Fischer, vies for attention with several less familiar artists. I'm going with British harpsichordist **Jane Chapman**, who has been described as "the hippest harpsichordist around." Given that her specialty is 20th- and 21st-century music, she'll perform music you won't hear anywhere else. The program mixes the tried and true by György Ligeti, Toru Takemitsu, and J.S. Bach — how did he get in there? — with new pieces by the Bay Area's Cindy Cox and Shell Nan. At **MusicSources** (1000 The Alameda, Berkeley) on Sunday Mar. 28, 5 p.m. $15–$20. 510-528-1685 or MusicSources.org — *Jason Victor Serinus*

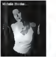
Jeremy Goodfeather

Jeremy Goodfeather

Jeremy Goodfeather characterizes himself first and foremost as a folk artist, and rightly so. But his guitar tunes are so immediately catchy that they would easily appeal to any fan of classic rock or country ballads. Goodfeather specializes in riff-based music. His lyrics are sweet and uncomplicated, his voice has a liquid drawl, and each of his songs comes to a natural rise. Such attributes come in handy for live performances, but they also sound good on record. Goodfeather's new self-titled release comprises mostly original tunes, with the exception of "35 More Miles" (by Floyd Westerman) and a killing version of "True Colors," the Billy Steinberg tune made popular by Cyndi Lauper. (Goodfeather shores up its original sentiment.) It's a neat take on traditional strumming acoustic guitar with congas, shakers, and vocal chanting. Not to mention Goodfeather bears the imprimatur of San Francisco producer Greg Landau. You can't go wrong with that one. Goodfeather performs Friday, Mar. 26, at **Hotel Utah Saloon** (500 4th St., San Francisco). 9 p.m., $8–$10. TheHotelUtahSaloon.com — *Rachel Swan*

Michelle Shocked

Despite breaking into the Americana scene at the same time as Steve Earle, Lyle Lovett, and k.d. lang, **Michelle Shocked** always operated in a different orbit than her peers. Nowhere was it more apparent than on 1992's *Arkansas Traveler*, on which Shocked covered old-timey mountain music standards like "Frankie & Johnny," "Soldier's Joy," and "Cotton Eyed Joe," and collaborated with an impressive who's-who of artists such as Uncle Tupelo, Pops Staples, Taj Mahal, Doc Watson, and members of the Band. Yet *Traveler* flopped upon its initial release, causing a shakeup at her record label. Nearly twenty years later, that roots music examination worthy of the legendary ethnomusicologist Harry Smith will be resurrected in its entirety when the politically outspoken Shocked performs at the **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Thursday, Mar. 25, 8 p.m. $24.50–$25.50. TheFreight.org — *Dave Gil de Rubio*


Michelle Shocked

Ray Manzarek and Roy Rogers

Ray Manzarek and **Roy Rogers** are [illegible], but both play [illegible] in the darker reaches of the blues idiom. They're both instrumental wizards, and the combination of Manzarek's keys and Rogers' slide-guitar produces a surprisingly rich sonic palette. Their recent collaboration, *Ballads Before the Rain*, is surprisingly low-key, with Manzarek showing his classical and boogie-woogie influences while Rogers provides his usual stellar accompaniment. Mini-performances include a Q&A session with Manzarek illuminating some and legendary stories of the Doors and Jim Morrison. Manzarek and Rogers play Friday, Mar. 26, at the **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley). 8 p.m., $24.50–$25.50. TheFreight.org — *J. Poet*

RPM Listening Party

Some musicians spend years making their albums, but if they're forced to do it in just thirty days, could they create something just as compelling? You'll have to find out at this year's **RPM Listening Party**, where you'll hear one song from the thirty-some albums the *Express* received for this year's RPM Challenge. Those that chose to answer the call to write and record an album in one month took various routes — everything from classic pop (Manzone) to trippy one-man space-rock (Zumatar and Galaxy Angel), peppy Americana (Mile Long Post 10), and homages to Big Foot (SNAILFACE). You'll have to hear it to believe it. At the **Den at the Fox Theater** (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Saturday, Mar. 27, 5-8 p.m., free. EastBayExpress.com/rpm/events — *Kathleen Wentz*

C&C

Moon Boss w/ Quarto Mio Cambo, The Cantrums. Uptown, 9 pm, $12
Vakeio Brik Band Cecchetti's, 10 pm, tba

Classical & Opera

Junior Bach Festival St. John's Presbyterian Church, 3 & 7:30 pm, $12, $7 students & seniors

Gospel & Vocal

The Anything Goes Chorus First Congregational Church, 7:30 pm, $15

Ohlone College Chamber Singers Smith Center, Ohlone College, 8 pm, $15-$20
Sounds Gospel Choir Paramount Theatre, 8 pm, $25-$65

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz & Joy Taste of Joy, 5:30 pm, free
Matt Bendel Quartet Jupiter, 8 pm, free
The Pine Alley Jazz [illegible], 6:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Brutal Sound Effects Festival #87 featuring James Ting Harper, Moose [illegible], Blue Moon, Damien's Blues, & more. 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8 pm, tba

An Evening with the Sun Kings Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $15-$20
Everything Went Up w/ Fragma, PBK, Mell Club, 9 pm, tba
The Fosdells w/ Nhdoing, Starry Plough, 9:30 pm, $10
Marisia Herrera La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 am, $5 adults, $4 kids
Nocturn featuring Whatt Yogurt, Moon Coalition, 8 pm, [illegible], 8 pm, $12-$15
Phoenos Waste Tree Cafe and Beer Gallery, 7 pm, $4
The Spittin Cobras w/ One After Another, The Waters Edge, Kaiser on Telegraph, 8 pm, $10
The Trillos Cafe Van Kleef, 8 pm, tba
Vindictive w/ Decrepit Criminals, Point Of View, War Of Aggression, Julian Mountain, 8

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[illegible] Night w/ [illegible] Sweet [illegible], 8 pm, free
[illegible] All Grand Ensemble w/ [illegible] Martinez, Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 1:30 pm, $10-$18
Y Los Pajaritos featuring [illegible], La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $15-$18

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 9 pm, $18
[illegible] and the [illegible] Ambassadors [illegible] & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $22
[illegible] w/ [illegible] The Good Sinners, Jeff [illegible], [illegible] 8 pm, $4-$8

Classical & Opera

The Alexander String Quartet featuring compositions from Dvorak including String Quartet in A-flat Major [illegible], String Quartet in G Major [illegible], [illegible] Theatre, 10 am, $24-$30
[illegible] Tour featuring [illegible], [illegible] Hall, 8 pm, $15

Holiday Music

A [illegible] of Lounge Berkeley, [illegible] Faith Ringgold, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 8 pm, $22-$37 members, $30-$50 nonmembers

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon Club [illegible], 8:30 pm, $25-$77
[illegible] Hilton San Francisco Financial District, 8 pm-midnight, free
[illegible] Cozy, 10 pm, $10
[illegible] Hotel Room, 8 pm, free
[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $27-$32
[illegible] & **[illegible] Big Band** [illegible] 12:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Big Sam's Funky Nation The Independent, 9 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ I Can Make A Mess Like Nobody's Business [illegible], Slim's, 8 pm, $16-$17
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 pm, $8
[illegible] Happy Hour [illegible] w/ local bands, The Parkside, 3-8 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Graham Palmer Whitney [illegible], [illegible] Bar and Grill, 8 pm, free
[illegible] Liquid The Parkside, 8 pm, free
[illegible] Oakland Party w/ [illegible], [illegible] & DJ [illegible], 8 pm, free
Local Action The Fillmore, 8 pm, $35
Sex with Strangers w/ The Minds, [illegible], Café du Nord, 8:30 pm, $10
[illegible] 20th Anniversary [illegible] Berkeley [illegible], Bimbo's [illegible], 8 pm, $20
The Tall Albatross Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free
Tolerance w/ The Head Worried, The New Slaves [illegible] of the Hill, 10 pm, $12
Tumbledown w/ The Famous [illegible] & [illegible] Cougars, Thee Parkside, 8 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Gates Of Slumber & Struck By Lightning, DNA Room, 8 pm, $11-$13
[illegible] w/ Andy [illegible], [illegible] Tavern, 9:30 pm, $8
Y La Bamba Amnesia, 9 pm, free

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hip hop, reggae & top 40

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CHALI 2NA
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SAT. 27TH
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SUN. 28TH
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roots, rock, reggae

TUESDAYS: KARAOKE 8PM 18 AND UP

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UROMASTYX
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FRI 3/26 9PM $10
FAUX FABLES
MOETAR
AND SPECIAL GUESTS

SAT 3/27 9PM $10
KHI DARAG
THE FUXEDOS
RUBE WADDELL
FREDDI PRINCE

THURS 4/1 8PM EARLY SHOW $7
LORETTA LYNCH
JOE PUT
YARD SALE

FRI 4/2 9PM $8
THE TRESPASSERS
THE GOOD LUCK THRIFT STORE OUTFIT
XENIA RUDNICKYA

SAT 4/3 9PM $10
STEREO FREAKOUT
GLIMPSE TRIO
INNER EAR BRIGADE

SUNDAYS 8:00 PM
IRISH MUSIC SESSION W/ SHAY BLACK

TUESDAYS
7:30 PM • FREE
OPEN MIC W/ JOAN PEZ

MONDAYS
7:00 PM LESSON, 8:00 PM DANCING / FREE
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LIVE SHOWS CALENDAR

All shows are free & all ages unless noted! [illegible] Amoeba.com for complete listings.

@ BERKELEY:

SUNDAY • MARCH 28 • 2PM

AMOEBA HOME GROWN PRESENTS

DAVE SMALLEN

[illegible]

@ SAN FRANCISCO:

FRIDAY • MARCH 26 • 6PM

CHATMONCHY

[illegible]

THURSDAY • APRIL 1 • 6PM

SURFER BLOOD

[illegible]

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C&C

Rock, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The [illegible] Center, 9 pm, $31-$35

SUNDAY 28

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Jam Castro Valley United Methodist Church, 1:30-5 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $24.50-$29.50
The [illegible] Irish [illegible] [illegible] w/ [illegible], Plough, 8:15 pm, sliding scale

Classical & Opera

[illegible] [illegible] Piano Company, 4 pm, $10
[illegible] [illegible] Hall, 3 pm, $48
[illegible] (Bach Festival) St. John's Presbyterian Church, 3 pm, $[illegible] students & [illegible]
[illegible] Civic Orchestra Lake [illegible] Church, 4 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] Saint Mary's College, 8 pm, $[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 pm, $15
[illegible] Presents [illegible] [illegible] Waterfront Restaurant and Nightclub, 5-11 pm, $20

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible] Music, 2 pm, free
Festival of the Puppets featuring The Columbus [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $7

The [illegible] Lovers Cafe Van Kleef, 8 pm, [illegible]
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Of [illegible], Studio on Telegraph, 7 pm, $[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Yoshi's, 7 & 9 pm, $15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Lounge Party Historic Sweet's Ballroom, 1 pm, $[illegible]
[illegible] Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Hope Yoshi's San Francisco, [illegible] pm, $[illegible]
[illegible] Plough and Stars, 5 pm, free
Ten Foot Tall w/ [illegible], 8 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] [illegible] Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 11 am-2 pm, $59 for brunch [illegible] and tax
[illegible] Music Festival featuring [illegible], [illegible] Vocal String Quartet, [illegible] Chamber Ensemble, & [illegible], [illegible] Lounge, 2 pm, $10-$40

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm, $[illegible]
[illegible] Trio [illegible], 7-10:30 pm, free
Live Jazz Brunch [illegible], 11:30 am, free
[illegible] [illegible] Room, 7 pm, [illegible]
[illegible] featuring [illegible] Quintet, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 7 pm, $25-$40

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe du Nord, 7:30 pm, $[illegible]
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8:30 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] of the Hill, 7 pm, $6
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] & Everything All of the Time, [illegible], 8:30 pm, $5-$8
The Paper Chase w/ [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $[illegible]
Songwriters Unplugged w/ [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 pm, $[illegible]
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 pm, $13-$15
[illegible] Spring Tour Acoustic Show featuring [illegible], Plough and Stars, 4 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 7 pm, tba

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] music and dance from the Middle East, [illegible], 8 pm, $40
John Calloway Coda, 9 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Warfield, [illegible] pm, $[illegible]

MONDAY 29

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Jam [illegible], 8-11 pm, free
[illegible] Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 8:30 pm, $[illegible]

Classical & Opera

[illegible] & the Freight [illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Antonio Sanchez's Migration with [illegible], [illegible] McCaslin, and Scott Colley, Yoshi's, 8 pm, $16

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] Bar & Grill, [illegible]

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[illegible] Bar & Lounge [illegible], 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Restaurant and [illegible] 448 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Cafe [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 1000 Great Highway, 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Columbus Ave., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
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[illegible] [illegible] Market St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Haight St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Folsom St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] Sutter St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 9th St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
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Coda [illegible], 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Lombard St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 11th St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
The [illegible] Tavern [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Geary St., 415-[illegible]
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[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Geary St., 415-[illegible]
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[illegible] [illegible] Geary Blvd., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 4th St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
Hemlock Tavern [illegible] Polk St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 4th St., 415-[illegible]
The Independent [illegible] Divisadero St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Geary Blvd., 415-[illegible]
Jazz at Pearl's [illegible] Columbus Ave., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible], 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible], 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Divisadero St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 22nd St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Jessie St., 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] West Portal Ave.
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Polk St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Fell St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Clement St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 222 Mason St.
San Francisco Conservatory of Music [illegible] Oak St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
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[illegible] [illegible] Geary St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 17th St., 415-[illegible]
Top of the Mark [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Broadway St., 415-[illegible]
The Warfield [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Restaurant and Lounge [illegible] Sutter St., 415-[illegible]
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MARCH 30 with KYLE TURLEY

NEVER SHOUT NEVER
MARCH 31

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special guest SLAVE just added!
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APRIL 2

FIGHTING
with MATT WERTZ
APRIL 3

APRIL 9

SIA
with BODY LANGUAGE
APRIL 14

CORINNE BAILEY RAE
with DANIEL MERRIWEATHER & CYPTURE
APRIL 13

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FEAT. MEMBERS OF NEW ORDER & JOY DIVISION
APRIL 16 with DUN DUN DUN

APRIL 17

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SWEET CHARIOT, BIG EAGLE
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Marti Brom
QUARTER MILE COMBO
The Tanirams
SATURDAY MARCH 27
9PM $12

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THE TELL-TALE HEARTBREAKERS

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C&C

pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

The Singing Life Music Symphony Hall, 8 pm, $20-$44

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Big Band w/ Henry Washington, Jazz at Pearl's, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$15

Jazzschool Young Musicians Program Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $12

Rock & Pop

Aged Orange w/ [illegible], FUKM, [illegible] 8 pm, $[illegible]

Blue Bear School of Music Band Showcase Cafe du Nord, 7:30 pm, $12-$20

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

Hollie McKay w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $21

[illegible] w/ The Rouge [illegible], Elbo Room, 8 pm, $6

[illegible] Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 pm, $5

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, tba

TUESDAY 30

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Andre Thierry & Zydeco Magic Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

[illegible] & Mike Maloney Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

[illegible] Presents Dance Night w/ [illegible], Vinnie's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Angela Mastrantonio piano music, Campo di Bocce, 6-9 pm, free

[illegible] Duo Yoshi's, 8 pm, $10

Howard Holt & Band [illegible], 7-9 pm, free

Randy Craig Trio Caffe [illegible], 7:30-9:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Kimball's Music Bar Presents featuring guests from Rogue Wave, Crown City Rockers, Persephone's Bees, Bright Eyes, & more. Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] & Blues, 8 pm, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Mafia Tuesdays Cafe, 8 pm, $8

[illegible] with [illegible] and Peter Erskine Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Art Rock El Rio, 8 pm, free

Blue Bear School of Music Band Showcase Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $17-$20

[illegible] Kenny's, 9 pm, $8-$10

[illegible] & [illegible] The Regency Center, 8 pm, $[illegible]

[illegible] w/ Sea Bright, Heavy Hills, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $6

The Morning Benders w/ Miniature Tigers, The Maldives, The Independent, 8 pm, $15

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Through The Eyes Of The [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], DNA Lounge, 8:30 pm, $18-$22

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $12

"Rock-N-Roll Tuesdays" featuring live band [illegible], 9 pm-2 am, $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $6

Story Of The Year w/ Mayday & The Sons Of [illegible], After Midnight Project, & Terrible Things, Slim's, 7:30 pm, $15-$17

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Elbo Room, 9 pm, $8

Late Night Live with SPQ and Love Soul Trio Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 pm, $5

WEDNESDAY 31

EAST BAY

Classical & Opera

The Romance of the Piano: [illegible] [illegible] Theater, 7:30 pm, $25-$45, $17 students

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

George Cole Quartet Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $[illegible]

Rock & Pop

Dub Sandwich featuring [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8 pm, tba

The Inflatables [illegible] Sports Bar & Grill, 8 pm, free

The Wyld Ones 19 Broadway Night Club, 9 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $34.50-$35.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Trio, Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $8

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $10

The Golden Age of Rock n' Roll [illegible] w/ Preston Parsons, [illegible], & more. Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $25-$30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] vs. Gibson Cafe, 7 pm, $5

[illegible] Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$[illegible]

[illegible] Quartet with [illegible] and Peter Erskine Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ guitarist [illegible], [illegible] Restaurant and Lounge, 10:30 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible] Room, 8 pm, $15

Rock & Pop

Blue Bear School of Music Band Showcase Cafe du Nord, 7:30 pm, $12-$20

[illegible] w/ Fever Dream, We Get Lost, & Electric Graves, Kenny's, 8 pm, $5-$8

Fundraiser for [illegible] Urban [illegible] Arts [illegible] El Rio, 6 pm, $5-$20

[illegible] w/ Glass-Town Refugees, [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $7

Laura Gibson & [illegible] w/ Emily Jane White, [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ The [illegible], Hey Mon[illegible], Every Avenue, & The Summer Set, The Grand Ballroom, 7 pm, TBA

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Sunburst Sound, [illegible], & [illegible] Valley, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Kidz in The Hall w/ 88-Keys, [illegible], & Donnis, The Independent, 8 pm, $13-$15 ■

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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3/28/10
2pm SILIAN RAIL
Instrumental duo who's songs are labyrinths of open-tuned guitars and intense drumming
myspace.com/silianrailmusic
3pm THE BLANK TAPES
Garage, [illegible] songs about plants, Santa Cruz [illegible] and other things
myspace.com/theblanktapes

4/4/10 2pm
BRIANNA LEA PRUETT
[illegible] songs from Northern California [illegible]
myspace.com/briannaleapruettmusic

4/11/10 2pm
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$1 PBR DRAFT 'TILL 10

THU 3/25
DANCE PARTY!
DJ BOBBYTOMIGUEL
FREE B4 10PM
$1 PBR DRAFT 'TILL 11

FRI 3/26
EVERGREEN DUB
RO KNEW AND INFLUENCE
DJ 5: SON-E-DAZE

SAT 3/27
EVERYTHING MUST GO!
FRACAS/ JRK/ MAD MADICS

SUN 3/28 4PM
FESTIVAL OF THE PUPPET PARTY $7
FREE BBQ

7PM
THE CLARENCES/ SUNNY NUMPKINS &
THE KILL BLOW-UP /REACTION/
THE HAPPY CL/ STOVE/ INFERNO OF JOY

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THE NEW PARISH

WED 3/24
SEAN HAYES
[illegible]
WITH SPECIAL GUEST KACEY JOHANSING
DOORS 8 PM / $15 ADV / $17 DOOR / 18+

FRI 3/26
CANDELARIA
WITH DJ ROGER MAS & [illegible]
DOORS 9 PM / $15 ADV / $18 DOOR / 18+

SAT 4/3
[illegible] PRESENT
THE HOT 8 BRASS BAND
DOORS 9 PM / $? / 21 +

SUN 4/4
NOBUNNY
[illegible] ANNUAL EARTH [illegible] WITH GIANT SPECIAL GUESTS
DOORS 8 PM / $15 / 18+

WED 4/14
RA RA RIOT
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
DOORS 8:30 PM / $18 ADV / ALL AGES

THUR 4/22
DEVIL MAKES THREE
DOORS 8 PM / SHOW 9 PM / $20 DOOR / 18+

3/27 THEPEOPLE
4/2 LE NEAT
4/17 THE PACK
4/19 DJ CHRIS BAIO (Vampire Weekend)
4/20 LA COLECTIVA
4/28 DROWNED
4/30 THE COUP
6/2 THE STANDARD
6/2 MIKE MARSHALL
6/21 FUBAI
6/? WHY?
NOTE: BONNIE 'PRINCE' BILLY IS SOLD OUT
TICKETS AT: THENEWPARISHEVENTS[illegible]

Ashkenaz
Music & Dance Community Center

WED 3/24 8:00 pm $7
FOLKDANCE
BALKAN FOLKDANCE
7:00 pm folkdance lessons

THU 3/25 8:30 pm $10
BALKAN/KLEZMER/AMERICANA
JANAM
GO VAN GOGH
8:00 pm dance lesson

FRI 3/26 9:30 pm $15 $10 advance
BRAZILIAN - A NIGHT OF FORRÓ
FORRÓ BRAZUCA
DJ CARIOCA
8:30 pm Forró dance lesson

SAT 3/27 9:00 pm $15 $10 advance
REGGAE
7TH ST. SOUNS SHOWCASE
ARMY SANNY I SINGHI
GHOST BLAAK LUNG, I RAE
DIVINE DJ BEAT NDK

SUN 3/28 3:00 pm $8 / $4 kids
SOGGY SUNDAYS KIDS SERIES
VAUDEVILLIANS STAGE
TROUPE'S SPRING THING!

SUN 3/28 9:00 pm $10
WORLD AFRO-POLYNESIAN
MAHSALAHI UCHIYAMA
[illegible]

TUE 3/30 8:30 pm $10
CAJUN ZYDECO
ANDRE THIERRY & ZYDECO MAGIC
8:00 pm Cajun/zydeco dance lesson

Sweet & Low Down Wednesdays
Dance to live Blues, Swing & everything in between. Odd Wednesdays [illegible] dance lesson before every show!
Mar 31 Gypsy Swing & more
George Cole Quintet
[illegible] $10
Apr 7 [illegible]
Apr 21 [illegible] & Her Red Hot [illegible] & Grand Swing
[illegible]

THU 4/1 8:30 pm $15 $10 advance
GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT
April Fools Day with
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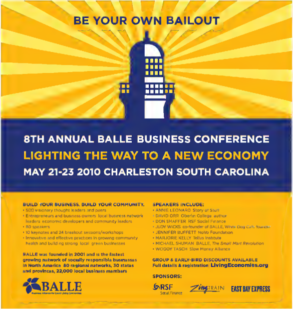

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 25

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ and DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40, White Horse Inn. 9 pm, $3 students, free w/ valid ID.

Dub Fever w/ Secure Dub Sound spinning reggae & dancehall, Shadowbrook Restaurant. 10 pm, free.

DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free.

DJ Jerry Ross spinning soul, funk, classics, R&B, & more. Easy Lounge. 10 pm, free.

DJ Trick spinning [illegible], Lost Weekend Lounge. 9 pm-2 am, free.

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spin [illegible] & R&B, Kingman's Ivy Room. 9 pm, free.

Flirt Thursdays student night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning mash-ups, electro, reggae, & top 40, [illegible] on Telegraph. 10 pm, TBA.

International Night Lounge, featuring DJ The Jab spinning Caribbean, French pop, Italian [illegible], Latin American garage, [illegible] & more, [illegible]. 9 pm, free.

Twisted Trap w/ DJs [illegible] & Mr. [illegible] spinning Jamaican oldies and reggae, [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm, free.

Riff Raff new pop, mash-ups, new wave, Radio. 10 pm-2 am, free.

[illegible] Reggae [illegible] Club. 9 pm, free.

Thirsty Thursdays w/ DJs [illegible] & Frisky Fresh spinning '80s flashbacks, classics, & old-school, Shattuck [illegible] Low Bar. free.

SAN FRANCISCO

Afrolicious w/ DJs [illegible] Pleasuremaker, Senor Oz, & guests spinning Afro-tropical-[illegible]-funk, Elbo Room. 10 pm, $6.

The Gate of our [illegible] featuring [illegible], Camp LO, & [illegible], [illegible]. 9 pm, $10-$20.

Chango Night DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spin hip-hop, reggae, R&B, & more, The Cellar. 10 pm, free.

DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning funky beats & underground hip-hop, Swig Bar. 9 pm, free.

[illegible] Party Cafe. 9 pm, free.

The [illegible] featuring [illegible] & DJ [illegible], [illegible]. 9 pm, $5.

Reggae rocking [illegible], The EndUp. 10 pm, $10.

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Vinyl Archaeologist and guest DJs spinning Reggae, [illegible].

funk, soul, dancehall, reggae, house, & breaks, [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm, $5.

Strangelove: [illegible] Wedding Night w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning dark electro, industrial, new wave, & goth. Wedding ceremonies & certificates for all who want to be joined in unholy matrimony. Underground SF. 9 pm, $5, and if you wear formal attire to wedding [illegible].

Swedish Invasion [illegible] Rockers, [illegible], & [illegible], Club Six. 9 pm, $10.

[illegible] [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], plus special headliner, DJ [illegible]. 9 pm, $10.

FRIDAY 26

EAST BAY

Back in the Friday DJ [illegible] plays music from the '80s, Kitty's. 9 pm, free.

Cuba 26 w/ DJs spinning Latin music, [illegible] 21 & [illegible]. 9 pm, $6-$15.

DJ [illegible] Soul [illegible] Music Bar & Lounge. 10 pm, free.

DJ [illegible] + Fresh [illegible] w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, soul, & funk, Parkway Lounge. 9 pm, free.

Friday Night Reggae Party w/ DJ [illegible] Africa Sound, & guests spinning reggae, R&B, & [illegible], Roots Fungers. 9 pm, free.

Happy Hours w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, rock, indie, & [illegible] rock, [illegible] Lounge. 6 pm, free.

Latin Explosion DJ [illegible] spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, bachata, Spanish pop & house, [illegible]. 9 pm-2 am, $5-$15.

Mighty [illegible] DJs [illegible] & Reggae [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop, Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm, $10.

Old-School hip-hop and funk, Radio. 9 pm, free.

Quixotic DJ [illegible] funk, Latin, & [illegible], Easy Lounge. 10 pm, free.

Retro-Active [illegible] 80s pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free.

Sultry Fridays DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin R&B & soul, [illegible]. 9 pm, $5.

[illegible] Fridays featuring DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], [illegible], Salsa, Merengue, Dancehall Reggae, Bhangra House music, & more, Conga Lounge. 10 pm.

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] spinning DJs Apollo, Shortbus, [illegible]. 10 pm, $5-$10.

[illegible] [illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible] beats, [illegible]. 10 pm, $5, and [illegible] 10:30 p.m.

[illegible] featuring DJ [illegible].

9 pm, $5.

[illegible] Friday DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spin '80s and [illegible], The Cellar. 10 pm, free before 10 pm, $10 after.

[illegible] featuring DJs, The EndUp. 10 pm, $15, free before midnight.

DJs [illegible] [illegible]. 9 pm, $5.

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop, [illegible] alternative, grunge and reggae, Madrone Lounge. 9 pm, $5 after 10 pm.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], Mezzanine. 9 pm, $15.

[illegible] Fridays w/ [illegible] from the Bay Area and around the world spinning hip-hop, [illegible], & [illegible]. $10.

SATURDAY 27

EAST BAY

The Block Yard [illegible] by Sean Kennedy, [illegible] Music. 2 pm, free.

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins [illegible], [illegible], Conga Lounge. 10 pm, free.

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. [illegible] and Bar. 2 pm, $6-$12.

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible], White Horse Inn. 9 pm, $5.

La [illegible] Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & banda, plus hot go-go dancers, Club 21. 9 pm, $6-$15.

Magic [illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests spin garage surf & [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free.

The People Party featuring DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], the [illegible]. 9 pm, $5.

Pop History [illegible] spin pop hits from the [illegible], Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am, free.

Total [illegible] Fuck w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop, metal, punk, hardcore, & more. [illegible] Reggae. 10 pm, free.

Warm-Up w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm, free.

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] presents: [illegible] featuring [illegible] and Lounge, [illegible], [illegible]. 10:30 pm, $20.

DJ [illegible] the Swig Bar. 9 pm, free.

[illegible], Saturdays w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible]: the [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm, $10.

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. 5 pm, $17.50.

[illegible] featuring DJs The [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spinning house, Club Six. 9 pm, $5.

[illegible] SF DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spin reggae dancehall, & [illegible], Club Six. 9 pm, $10-$15.

[illegible] DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] spin [illegible] soul [illegible]. 9 pm, $10, free before 11 p.m.

[illegible] DJs [illegible], 10 pm, free.

STEADY: Presented by [illegible], FM & [illegible] spinning DJs [illegible], [illegible], & more, [illegible] Reggae. 10 pm, $10.

SUNDAY 28

EAST BAY

Roots by Boutiques [illegible], funk and [illegible], Easy Lounge. 9 pm, free.

[illegible] on a Sunday [illegible] [illegible] soul, funk, [illegible], Latin, house, reggae, & more, Kitty's. 2 pm, free.

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & [illegible], old-school, [illegible] & [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm, free.

The Soul-Full Show DJ [illegible] & guests spin soulful grooves, Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 pm, free.

SAN FRANCISCO

Dub [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & guests spinning dub, [illegible] dancehall classics, [illegible]. 9 pm, $5.

Honey Sundays w/ Honey Soundsystem DJs spinning dance music, Paradise Lounge. 8 pm, $3 after 11 p.m.

MONDAY 29

EAST BAY

The 3-Day Weekend w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop and soul classics, Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 pm, free.

Mix Mondays DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin reggae & dancehall, Kitty's. 9 pm, free.

Mystery Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, new wave, & [illegible], Ruby Radio. 10 pm-2 am, free.

Reggae [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning rock and roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul, [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm, free.

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs spinning New [illegible] R&B & '70s soul, [illegible]. 9:30 pm, free.

DJ [illegible] spinning boogie soul, rare grooves, & downtempo, Swig Bar. 9 pm, free.

[illegible] spinning DJ [illegible] & guests spin hits and [illegible] from the '70s to today, Underground SF. 10 pm, free.

Salsa Lunes w/ DJ [illegible] plus [illegible] Lounge, Cafe Cocomo. 7:30 pm, $6, [illegible] $10.

Radical Vinyl w/ DJ [illegible] spinning an eclectic mix of vinyl, [illegible]. 5 pm-2 am, $2.

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, '80s boogie, jazz, Latin, and Afrobeat, Tunnel Top. 10 pm, free.

TUESDAY 30

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free.

DJ [illegible] spinning punk, Lost Weekend Lounge. 9 pm-2 pm, free.

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] Reggae guests spin [illegible] Lounge & [illegible] Plaza. 9 pm, $10.

Soul [illegible] DJs [illegible] and [illegible], & guests spin reggae, dancehall, & classics, Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm, free.

[illegible] w/ DJs spinning rock, soft hits, oldies & soul, Ruby Room. 10 pm, free.

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning [illegible] jazz and funk rock, plus [illegible] guests, Madrone Lounge. 5 pm, free.

DJs [illegible] hip-hop open-mic party, Club Six. 9 pm, $5.

DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning funked-up beats, underground [illegible], & silky grooves, Swig Bar. 9 pm, free.

Old-School [illegible] & SF [illegible] Little [illegible]. 9 pm, $5.

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] plus MC [illegible], Underground SF. 9 pm, $5.

WEDNESDAY 31

EAST BAY

80s Night with [illegible] DJs spin songs from the '80s, plus [illegible] spinning by [illegible], Easy Lounge. 9 pm, free.

[illegible] Latin cowboy night w/ [illegible], [illegible] Bench and Bar. 9 pm, $8-$15.

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins soulful [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm, free.

[illegible] Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin reggae & dancehall, Kingman's Ivy Room. 10 pm, free.

[illegible] [illegible] and Bar. 5:30 pm, $5.

[illegible] Stork Club. 5 pm, [illegible].

[illegible] Punk, indie, new wave, & [illegible] rock w/ DJ [illegible] Ruby Radio. 10 pm, free.

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] DJ [illegible] Sabbath [illegible] North African & [illegible], Underground SF. 9 pm, $5.

Bondage-a-Go-Go go-go [illegible], plus DJs spinning dirty [illegible], [illegible]. 9:30 pm, $5 before 10:30 p.m., $7.

DJ [illegible] spinning chilled-out [illegible], new school soul, & underground hip-hop, Swig Bar. 9 pm, free.

[illegible] with the [illegible] [illegible] San Francisco. 9 pm, $5.

Last Night [illegible] Cafe. 10 pm, $5.

PICK

Air

Its first shows in three years, French electronic pop duo **Air** alights upon the **Fox Theater** (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Friday, March 26, with opening act, Los Angeles' **AM**. Air's Nicolas Godin and JB Dunckel are touring behind their fifth studio album *Love 2*, released in October to the [illegible] spot on the Billboard [illegible], featuring stand-out track "Eat My Beat." This tour Godin and Dunckel take on full instrumental and vocal duties, augmented by British drummer/percussionist Alex Thomas (Bat for Lashes), doing a bit of time classics and hopefully new track "So Light Is Her Footfall." Air's 1998 debut *Moon Safari* gave the world "Sexy Boy," and its collaboration with Sofia Coppola on *The Virgin Suicides* birthed "Playground Love" and helped them sell 5.5 million records worldwide. Don't miss these leading ambassadors of French pop. 8 p.m., $37.50. TheFoxOakland.com — *David Downs*

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FRI East Bay's Got Soul w/ DJ [illegible]
DJ Chicano & guests

SAT Free Pool [illegible]
"The Top" w/ DJ Salvatore Valentino

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During the month of February, the East Bay Express challenged Bay Area bands to produce a new album of music - 60 bands accepted the challenge, and 30 bands submitted their final work for this event.

Join us at the listening party where we will play one track from every album submitted, while we mix, mingle and celebrate these talented musicians.

Artist	Album
Eskoube	Blink of an Eye
Dog Without Warning	A Hundred Things I Would Do Differently
Chris Hilonigo	Metal Orea
Olympian	Skeletons
Dirty Focus	Because I Want You
Brian J. Kenny	Ya-Te-Hey
Monstrum Sepsis	26 days
Machine Screams	Machine Screams
Cave Dwellers	Unlocked Doors
Ann	Reflections
Matthew Grounds	Dark Octopus
Bolique St	Willow Blue
Edible Norris	Ready Set Gonnde
Retail Nightmare	Retail Nightmare
Xander Crayon	Kaye
Vivian Circle	The Integers
The Archaeologist	The Old Man and the MPC
Dylan Coyle	The Switch
Mile Long Post-it	At Least Three
Ladymoon	Evolution
Eric M. Demby	Living Will Kill You Eventualy Too
Colin Fisher	Lord Pennyton
Zometer and Galaxy Angel	On the Dark Side of the Moog
SUNFIRE	Galactic DOB
Tonelust	Selections from Import BEPGM
Cope	February
Touchphonics	
Helen Sventitsky	Stories From The Road
Manaran	Mr. Hanson
Warren Pease	Hot and Heavy
SNAILFACE	SNAILFACE II

EAST BAY EXPRESS

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Looking for an Insider's Guide?

We published our annual Insider's Guide last week, but if you weren't able to get your hands on a copy, it's not too late. The 2010 guide, which contains exhaustive information on East Bay neighborhoods, nightlife, dining, shopping, culture, and events, can still be found at any of these fine establishments.

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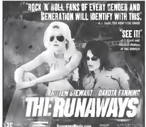
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SAVAGE LOVE

IN PUBLIC, BUT NOT WITH SIS

The trials and tribulations of twentysomethings' sex lives

By Dan Savage

I'm a 23-year-old bi dude seeing a guy who is intelligent, sweet, attractive — the works. We've been together for six weeks. The problem is, after our first night together, I lost sexual interest in him. When I do get horny, I prefer to beat off alone, because I can fantasize about some sort of transgression or other when I do it, e.g., having sex where I'm at risk of being discovered, rape fantasies, incest scenarios. Obviously, at some point I began associating "sexy" with "dangerous" and maybe "wrong." I want a serious relationship, but I'm tired of pretending and failing in bed because I'm just not into the sex. And, dammit, he's cute and I should be able to get it up! What do I need to do?

Two Guys, One Erection

Risk having the sex that turns you on with the guy who turns you on. Fuck him in public, fuck him where you might be discovered, fuck him by simulated force. And whether you're fucking at home or in public, you're free to fantasize that your no-relation boyfriend is your brother/nephew/uncle — or sister/niece/aunt — if that's what it takes to get you off.

And when you're not having dangerous and/or wrong sex, you can talk dirty about all the dangerous and/or wrong sex you've had with him already and plan to have with him in the future. Even if you're fucking around under the covers at home with the door shut and the lights off, you can tell him about how next time you're going to fuck him so hard in a public place that the police are going to come running when they hear him scream because you're both so dangerous and wrong and blah blah dirty talk blah.

You'll never get to a "two guys, two erections" place, if you don't risk sharing your real sexual fantasies and interests with this guy. Given a choice between hot sex with his boyfriend or boring sex that leaves you feeling unsatisfied and him feeling rejected, and eventually leads to the demise of this relationship, your boyfriend is likelier to choose hot sex.

The basics of my life: I'm male, straight, in my mid 20s. I have a twin sister and have been with my girlfriend for three years. I want to break up with my girlfriend for a variety of reasons. I have begun the conversation four times. But each time I do, she brings up different sexual fantasies I have confided in her during our relationship. I believe the implication is that if I break up with her, she'll tell people about my fantasies — one in particular.

AND THAT CANNOT HAPPEN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!!!

The fantasy I am most worried about her revealing is incestuous in nature. When I was about 15, I used mental images of my sister to get off. I never had any romantic or sexual feelings toward her in real life — I was never attracted to her when she was physically present — and once I started sleeping with real girls, my fantasies about my sister ceased. One time, my girlfriend and I got stoned and discussed our most outrageous sexual fantasies. I want out of the relationship, but I am terrified of what would happen if she told people, especially my sister. How can I exit this relationship, and how can I contain the damage if she decides to tell people my secret? And is it fucked up that I used to masturbate to thoughts about my twin?

Freaking Fucked Or Fucking Freak?

I wish my boyfriend were as easy to manipulate as you seem to be — Jesus, the shit I could get away with. Anyway, dumbfuck, unless you put your most outrageous sexual fantasies in writing, you're not the one in real danger here. Your soon-to-be ex-girlfriend is. Here's what you do: Spend a week in front of a mirror perfecting a look of stunned incredulity, and then go break things off with your girlfriend. Make sure the actual split is big and messy and public. If she attempts to retaliate by telling people about your no-longer-operative sexual fantasies, you slap that look of stunned incredulity on your face and say, "I knew we had a bad breakup, but, my God, what kind of sick piece of shit makes up something like that?" Then just for the hell of it, confide in one or two friends that you're not surprised your ex went there — that she tried to drag your sister into this — because she was always pressuring you about having a three-way with your sister, and that was one of the reasons you dumped her.

And yeah, masturbating to thoughts of a sibling is a little fucked-up. But it's not uncommon for teenagers to fantasize — and, in some disturbing instances, to actualize — about their siblings. Sex can seem scary and new, while our siblings seem safe and familiar. For most people, those early and inappropriate fantasies quickly subside, as they did for you.

My boyfriend and I have been together for six months. He's 23 and I'm 22. He's a virgin and I'm not. I've been very slow and patient about sex, and he's responded really well. We've done all the basic sex-without-actual-intercourse things — outercourse, fingering, oral — and we're both very satisfied with our "not sex" life. Lately, the subject of anal intercourse has come up. I've never done it, but I am turned on by the idea, and he's definitely up for it. What's the problem then? The idea of our first real sex being anal bothers me. He pleases me, and his reasons for not having vaginal sex when we do so much else are at least somewhat logical (we're both paranoid about pregnancy). But I worry that by having anal sex, I'll delay the sex that I really want! Plus, I worry that he won't be as turned on by the regular kind later.

Stick It In Me Already

If he's not up for vaginal intercourse for religious and/or ridiculous reasons, that's his call. If you're not up for anal sex for whatever reason, that's your call. He should support your decision, just as you've supported his.

And for the record: Neither of you are virgins. You have a little virgin territory left to explore — your vagina, your butt, his butt — but you're both sexually active nonvirgins, and have been for months.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 434219
The following individual is doing business as **WFNK Consulting**, Street Address: 1435 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Apt #3, Berkeley, CA 94709. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: Malcolm K. [illegible], 1435 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Apt #3, Berkeley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 21, 2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 1/11/2010.
WFNK Consulting
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court, Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner SARA [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: SARA [illegible] to Proposed Name: SARA [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: MAY 28, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: Feb 22, 2010 Signed: [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Feng Shui Fix**, Street Address: [illegible] St., Apt [illegible], Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], 2573 Lafayette St., Apt 7, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/[illegible]/2010.
Feng Shui Fix
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court, Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner DEBRA ANN TAYLOR filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: DEBRA ANN TAYLOR to Proposed Name: DEBRA ANN [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: APRIL 2, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: [illegible] 2010. Signed: [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court.
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Realty Solutions Signature Properties**, Street Address: 4803 Tryon Place, Dublin, CA 94568. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: RW Signature Properties, Inc., 4803 Tryon Place, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/26/2010.
Realty Solutions Signature Properties
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Foundation**, Street Address: [illegible] Ave, Berkeley, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: The [illegible] Foundation, [illegible] Telegraph Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
[illegible] Foundation
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435180
The following individual is doing business as **TableTopics, Inc.**, Street Address: 2607 7th St., Suite E, Berkeley, CA 94710. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: TableTopics, Inc., 2607 7th St., Suite E, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by an [illegible]. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/04. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/24/2010.
TableTopics, Inc.
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court, Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ALISA [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: ALISA [illegible] to Proposed Name: ALISA [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: MAY 28, 2010, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: February 22, 2010 Signed: [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court
3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/24/2010.
[illegible]
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America**, Street Address: [illegible] Street, Suite [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], [illegible] Franklin Street, Suite [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. This Business is Conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/11/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/2/2010.
Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Two Noodle and a Name**, Street Address: [illegible], [illegible] CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible].
Two Noodle and a Name
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Parkway, Fremont, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: [illegible] Court, Concord, CA [illegible], is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], [illegible] Court, Concord, CA [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/[illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

[illegible]
3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], Berkeley, CA [illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/[illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **oh boy, oh boy!** Street Address: [illegible] Camino St., Suite C, Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], [illegible] Camino St., Suite C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/19/2010. The Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/4/2010.
oh boy, oh boy!
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible], Alameda, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. The Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/4/2010.
[illegible]
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Telegraph Ave. Suite [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], [illegible] Telegraph Ave. Suite [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. The registrant [illegible] under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Street, Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible], is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/[illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Piedmont Ave., #[illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] LLC, [illegible] Piedmont Ave., #[illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/15/2010.
[illegible]
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/11/2010.
[illegible]
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible], Alameda, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible].
[illegible]
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14/2010

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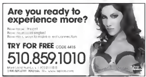
Notice of Petition to Administer Estate of LISA FORRESTAL CONNOR CASE NUMBER RP10501907
1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of: (specify all names by which the decedent was known) LISA FORRESTAL CONNOR. 2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: (name of petitioner) Geoffrey M. Connor in the Superior Court of California, County of (specify): Alameda. 3. The petition for Probate requests that (name): Geoffrey M. Connor be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. 6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date 4/5/[illegible] Time [illegible] Dept. 201 7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. 8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. 9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. 10. Attorney for petitioner (name): Robert [illegible] Esq (SBN [illegible]) Address: 2000 Powell Street, Suite 700 Emeryville, CA 94608 Telephone 510-[illegible]
[illegible]



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